

## Man, wife killed in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police are investigating the death of a Syrian couple found stabbed and burnt in their apartment near the University of Jordan. Official sources said Jamal Majzoub, 39, had his throat slit and his wife Manal Oduman, 35, was stabbed in the chest and abdomen with her arms and legs tied and mouth gagged. The couple were found by the Civil Defence Department (CDD) burned beyond recognition. The CDD were called by neighbours to extinguish a fire in the house. An official source said that "probably the assailant burned the house to conceal the crime." Police are looking for their two-year-old son who was not found at the apartment and described him as blond with long hair.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية للرأي

## Lebanon destroys \$6 million worth of drugs

BEIRUT (AP) — Police destroyed \$6 million in hashish and cocaine on Tuesday as part of the government's crackdown on illegal drugs in Lebanon. Some 1,700 kilograms of hashish, 117 kilograms of cocaine, 15,000 assorted pills and smaller amounts of other drugs were set afire at a garbage dump in Bourj Hammoud on the capital's outskirts. The drugs were seized in the last six months from various parts of Lebanon, officers of the police's Drug Enforcement Bureau said. Brig. Salim Sleem, commander of the force, said at the scene that the drugs had a value of \$6 million. Lebanon's drug trade thrived during the lawless days of the 1975-90 civil war, especially in the eastern Bekaa valley.

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## Palestinian jailed for killing two Israelis escapes from hospital

JERICHO (AFP) — A Palestinian jailed for life for involvement in the shooting of two Israelis escaped Tuesday from a hospital in the West Bank town of Jericho. Palestinian sources said. Abdul Nasser Al Kisey managed to pry his way out of a bathroom window at Jericho hospital after he had been transferred three days earlier from the local Palestinian prison. Palestinian police and the Israeli army set up road blocks and began searches in the area for the escapee. Kisey, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), was sentenced to life in prison by a Palestinian court for the drive-by shooting in December of an Israeli mother and her son near the West Bank settlement of Beit El. Two other PFLP members received sentences of life in prison and 15 years for their involvement in the shooting.

## Sudan welcomes Kuwait's reconciliation promise

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan welcomed Tuesday a Kuwaiti promise to reconcile with Arab countries which it does not believe fully supported it during the Gulf crisis. "This Kuwaiti position would help in boosting Arab solidarity and would be a new page for positive cooperation among Arab states," Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohammad Taha was quoted as saying by Sudan's official news agency SUNA. On Sunday, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who serves as Kuwait's foreign minister and deputy prime minister, said reconciliation with those Arab countries would be "very soon." Among them are Jordan, Yemen and Sudan, who either supported Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait or failed to support strongly the U.S.-led coalition that drove Iraqi troops out in 1991. During the conflict, Sudan opposed the coalition and said it preferred an Arab solution to the crisis. The rift caused by the war has hindered efforts at coordinated positions and remains a sign of the Arab world's disunity.

## Syria warns against closer ties with Israel

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam Tuesday warned certain Arab countries to stop treating Israel as a friend and ally. "It is unacceptable that some Arabs treat the enemy like a friend at a time when other Arabs are suffering (Israel's) aggression," Mr. Khaddam told a meeting of the Arab journalists union here. "Those who behave in this way will regret it, but it will be too late by then," he said. Syria has been leading calls for an Arab boycott of the fourth Middle East and North Africa economic conference, which is due to be held in Qatar in November because of Israel's peace process policy. Earlier Tuesday, Qatar's emir confirmed that Israel would be invited to the conference.

## U.S. launches long-term fund to help Jordan implement reforms

*The political economy of peace has to mean something to the man in the street, this gesture is timely — Crown Prince*

Special from Washington

THE U.S. formally announced yesterday a \$100 million additional aid package to Jordan in recognition of the Kingdom's leadership role in and positive contributions to the Middle East peace process. The announcement of the creation of the Middle East Peace and Stability Fund, whose initial focus will be on assisting Jordan as it pursues economic modernization and reform, came during a visit HRH Crown Prince Hassan and a team of senior officials are making to Washington.

In addition to this year's new aid package to Jordan,

the U.S. intends to support the development of the fund over the next several years. President Bill Clinton said in a statement.

"In the coming days, we will work closely with the Jordanian authorities to identify the best ways to integrate these resources [the initial \$100 million earmarked for Jordan this year] into existing development plans." The president added, "over time, this fund will be flexible enough to be used to support other regional priorities as needed."

In announcing the package, \$50 million of which is expected to go to budget support and the other half

to supporting specific development projects, the president and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, with whom the Crown Prince met and had lunch yesterday, saluted the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein both on the level of "leading Jordan down the path of peace, exemplifying the wisdom and tenacity necessary to negotiate and carry out peace treaties" and of playing a leading role in the search for a Middle East peace settlement.

Even though the amount of aid, which the administration took equally from assistance now provided to Israel and Egypt, is a small fraction of the funds the

U.S. sends to the two countries, Jordan expressed appreciation of it, especially since the administration has pledged to sustain and develop it for several years and in addition to persuade Japan and European countries to furnish support of similar magnitude. "We have had discussions with the Congress regarding [the aid package]," President Clinton said in his statement, "at a time of limited resources, we believe (the peace and stability) fund is the most effective and practical way to respond to new needs (in the region)."

(Continued on page 7)

## Israeli troops wound 10 Palestinians; settlers try to expand land in Jericho

HEBRON (R) — Israeli troops shot and wounded 10 Palestinians Tuesday in the fourth straight day of clashes in the divided West Bank town of Hebron, witnesses said.

In another incident just east of Jericho Palestinian self-rule enclave in the West Bank, Jewish settlers tried to expand Elisha settlement by fencing off additional land, Palestinians said. The Israeli army was checking the report.

The violence underscores efforts and what Palestinians view as an Israeli drive to expand Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank to preempt final peace negotiations.

In Hebron, witnesses said several dozen youths threw stones in the area of a fortified Jewish settler enclave in the heart of the town. Soldiers immediately deployed opposite the demonstrators and on surrounding roofs.

The troops initially withheld fire but when one youth burned a large Israeli flag and danced in front of them they shot at him, wounding him in the leg, the witnesses said.

Officials at Al Ahli Hospital said a 12-year-old boy was in critical condition after a bullet penetrated his head. A 72-year-old Palestinian passer-by was also in serious condition from a bullet which hit him in the forehead, the officials said.

They said eight other

West Bank gunmen fire on Israeli car, no one hurt

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Gunmen opened fire on an Israeli car near the West Bank city of Hebron overnight, but no one was wounded in the latest in a series of attacks on settler vehicles, the army said.

Several shots were fired at the car near the town of Halhul, north of Hebron, an army spokesman said. Footprints were found leading from the site of the shooting to a zone controlled by the Palestinian authority, he said.

The army reported a spate of attacks by stones and firebombs against Israeli cars in the West Bank overnight. No one was reported injured.

Palestinians were wounded.

Israel handed 80 per cent of Hebron to Palestinian rule under an interim peace deal in January but kept troops at the heart of the town to protect some 400 Jewish settlers who live there in fortified enclaves. About 100,000 Arabs live in Hebron.

On Monday, soldiers shot and wounded at least 38 Palestinians in Hebron. More than 100 Palestinians have been wounded in the four days of violence there.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Monday of ordering violence in Gaza and of doing nothing to stop unrest in Hebron.

"There was a clear set of instructions a few days ago in Gaza for the violence that took place there," Mr. Netanyahu told reporters after he addressed a parliamentary committee in Jerusalem, referring to unrest last week. "I can't tell you about Hebron in the last 24 hours

because I haven't seen the reports. But I can tell you that the Palestinian police have refrained from acting against the violence," he said.

On Tuesday at Jericho, Palestinians said Elisha settlers tried to fence off additional land. They said Israeli and Palestinian security forces stopped the expansion and set a meeting for later in the day to resolve the dispute.

The incident was similar to that which sparked the violence in Gaza. Israeli right-wing legislators said they would go to Gaza later Tuesday to plant trees on disputed land there. Settlers said Palestinians were gathering near Morag settlement in the strip before the legislators arrive.

On Monday in Gaza, Jewish settlers shot and wounded one Palestinian youth and fired at least three bullets at journalists during a clash over the land which Arabs said had recently been fenced off and annexed to Morag.

## Egypt hints that mediation on hold

CAIRO (AP) — In a sign of further deadlock, Egypt's foreign minister hinted Tuesday that the government had put on hold a mediation effort to resume Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Foreign Minister Amr Musa's remarks were the first Egyptian acknowledgement that its efforts to bring the sides together had gone nowhere since an Egyptian-Israeli summit last.

"It should be known that the peace process is going through a huge crisis," Mr. Musa said after meeting President Hosni Mubarak. "There is a huge gap that still exists."

Mr. Musa added that a top Egyptian diplomat would stop shuttling between Israelis and Palestinians. Egypt stepped in after U.S. envoy Dennis Ross failed to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table. Mr. Mubarak's political adviser, Osama Al Baz, then made several visits in May and earlier this month in effort to restart the talks. Israel Radio reported Tuesday that the Israeli government was waiting for word from Mr. Baz after a meeting he and Mr. Musa had in Cairo Monday with three key Palestinian negotiators.

Mr. Musa, however, cast doubts on whether Egypt would continue with its mediation. When asked by reporters if Mr. Baz would resume his visit to Israelis and Palestinians, the foreign minister said: "No, this is not being discussed at the time being."

Mr. Musa did not specify what was holding up progress, but he repeated Egypt's demand that Israel halt the building in Arab east Jerusalem and expanding Jewish settlements elsewhere.

Such a halt would be helpful "even if it is just for a logical period to help restart the negotiations," he said.

## Female military recruits have higher educational background than male in same ranks — Princess Aysha

*'Chauvinists surprised that military women in some areas more qualified to carry out the job'*

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the military is a microcosm of society, women in the Jordanian Armed Forces still have to overcome the "intangible" barriers of conservatism and chauvinism they are sometimes confronted with in other sectors of life, HRH Princess Aysha Bint Al Hussein said on Tuesday.

Praising the highly satisfactory performance of Jordanian women in the Armed Forces and their individual qualities, such as ambition, determination and courage, Princess Aysha said that "although the majority of our military men support and respect women in the military, we do have the stereotypical male chauvinists who are constantly surprised that military women are professional, thorough in their work, and, in some

areas, more qualified than they are to carry out the job. "This is particularly true because women recruited into the Jordanian Armed Forces have a higher educational background than men recruited into the same ranks," she added.

Presenting an overview of women's achievements and problems in the military, Princess Aysha, who holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and chairs the Directorate of Women's Affairs in the Jordanian Armed Forces, said "women end up on the short end of the stick because we often lack the specialist qualifications that men hold."

Even when women could partake in military courses in Jordan or abroad, very often they are prevented from seizing such opportunities because of cultural and social taboos, Princess

Aysha said. "While more opportunities for training can easily be presented, the problem is compounded by the unwillingness of many of our higher-ranking women to train abroad."

"We face the problem of the women's spouses refusing to allow them to go on overseas courses or, in the case of single females, their parents' refusal to let them travel abroad," Princess Aysha asserted.

Jordanian women are recruited in the Armed Forces as doctors, nurses, secretaries, administrators, data entry specialists and computer programmers.

After realising that the majority of administrative women in the Armed Forces are placed in jobs that do not match their educational qualifications, Princess

(Continued on page 7)

## Israel denies thwarting U.N. settlement mission

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Tuesday denied U.N. accusations it thwarted a mission to investigate its settlement activity by imposing severe and unnecessary restrictions.

"We felt it was pointless for the envoy to come here," said foreign ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor. "But it wasn't like we slammed the door or something. It's their decision, after all."

The U.N. said the restrictions Israel imposed were

so severe they rendered the mission impossible.

"The restrictions imposed on the scope of the mission by the government of Israel were not acceptable to the U.N.," spokesman Fred Eckhard said in New York Monday.

"Regrettably, it appears that the mission will not be taking place since Secretary General Kofi Annan needs to report to the General Assembly by June 25," he said.

Israel, which opposed

both the mission and the General Assembly resolution condemning settlement-building that led to it, said it set no conditions at all.

"We have grave reservations about the decision in the first place. It is a knee-jerk, anti-Israel decision," said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's media adviser, David Bar-Ilan.

The General Assembly, in

(Continued on page 7)

## Jordan to hand over W. Bank maps to PNA; train engineers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government announced Tuesday that it has agreed to provide the Palestine National Authority (PNA) with maps of the roads and government buildings in the West Bank which existed before 1967.

At the conclusion of the four-day meetings of a joint technical Jordanian-Palestinian committee representing ministries of public works in both countries, the Jordanian side also said it will provide the Palestinians with copies of legisla-

tion and contracts documents governing and organising the construction sector in Jordan.

The committee was formed under a protocol signed by the two sides last March.

Jordan also undertook to cater for the training needs of the Palestinian public works departments. Training will cover such areas as soil laboratory tests, land survey techniques and information systems.

The Jordanian government said it will inform the

Palestinians about dates and arrangements for these training courses and will invite Palestinian engineers to visit the ministry and its various departments.

The two sides agreed to conduct joint studies and prepare designs and tender documents for two projects, building a main highway and a government department complex in the Palestinian self-rule areas. The two sides agreed to facilitate working relations

(Continued on page 7)

## Israeli guards teargas Palestinians in prison protest — rights group

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli prison guards shot tear gas into cell blocks and beat Palestinian prisoners in a bid to put down a protest against a ban on family visits, a Palestinian rights group said on Tuesday.

The incident in Megiddo prison, north of Tel Aviv, occurred on Monday when prisoners began shouting and protesting after it was announced that family members would not be allowed to visit, the Prisoners' Club said.

When the protest heightened, guards fired tear gas into cell blocks and large numbers of police stormed into cells, beating prisoners, the group said in a statement

received by AFP.

The number of injured "was reported to be in the dozens, although we cannot know how bad the injuries are," said Issa Karaki, the Bethlehem head of the Prisoners' Club, a Palestinian group which deals with prisoners inside Israel.

Megiddo holds around 600 Palestinian prisoners. The prison also held around 280 administrative detainees, Palestinians detained without charge, who were separated from the other prisoners in a tent compound within the prison walls.

But in the past two weeks prison authorities have moved most of the adminis-

trative detainees to other prisons.

"They have been distributed to various prisons inside Israel. Israel considers them a source of trouble and so has decided to separate them," Mr. Karaki told AFP.

"This also makes it very difficult for their families to visit, since they are not informed of the move and only find out when they go to Megiddo to find their relatives gone," he said.

Administrative detainees are held for renewable six-month periods, and some have been in detention for several years without being tried.



A Palestinian man urges Palestinian youths to stop clashing with Israeli soldiers in Hebron Monday, for the fourth straight day of rioting over the deadlock in the peace process (AFP photo)



# Arafat in S. Arabia to discuss peace process and request aid

JEDDAH (AP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat arrived Tuesday to this Red Sea port city to discuss with King Fahd the stalled Middle East peace process and to request financial aid.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Arafat was hoping the Saudis would use their

influence in Washington to stop the implementation of a U.S. House of Representatives vote on recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The vote has to be approved by the Senate and President Clinton to take effect.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity,

said Mr. Arafat will also request aid from the oil-rich kingdom and ask it to call on its neighbours, especially Kuwait, to provide much-needed financial aid to the Palestinians.

Mr. Arafat, who visited the kingdom four times last year, was received at the airport by Foreign Minister

Saud Al Faisal.

"This visit is important because it comes within the frame of Palestinian efforts to demonstrate Israel's expansionist schemes in Jerusalem and other Palestinian areas," said Mustafa Hashem Deeb, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA)

representative in Saudi Arabia.

Ties between the Palestinians and the Saudis deteriorated during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis when Mr. Arafat sided with Iraq, which was bombarding Saudi Arabia. His visits last year signalled a thaw in relations.

## Islamists dominate student elections at Al Quds University

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Candidates linked to Hamas and Islamist Jihad movements dominated student-council elections at Al Quds University outside Arab east Jerusalem, but their showing was poorer than in past years, election officials said Tuesday.

The Islamist lists jointly polled 61 per cent of the vote in Monday's election, compared to 34 per cent for candidates affiliated

with Yasser Arafat's Fateh movement.

Left-wing secular groups opposed to Mr. Arafat's peace agreements with Israel took five per cent of the vote.

Ali Khashan, a professor who oversaw the elections, said most of the support for Islamist candidates came from two colleges specialising in Koranic and Muslim studies, while the Law, Science and Literature departments backed Fateh

and other secular lists.

Mr. Khashan said that despite the strong showing of the Hamas and Islamist Jihad lists, Monday's election marked a setback for the Islamist candidates who in past years held all 51 student council seats.

"This year for the first time the election was held under a system of proportional representation, which permitted Fateh and the other secular groups to improve their showing

with about 40 per cent of the student council seats," he said.

In the vote, the Islamists won 31 seats, Fateh 17 and the Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine three.

The university election took place amid an ongoing crisis in peace talks with Israel caused by the issue of Jewish settlement expansion and following a controversial vote in the U.S. Congress recognising

Israeli sovereignty over Arab east Jerusalem.

"The deadlock in the peace process and the American decision on Jerusalem led a majority of undecided students to back the Islamists," Mr. Khashan said.

Al Quds University, located in the east Jerusalem suburb of Abu Dis, has 2,200 students, 1,900 of whom took part in the vote Monday, Mr. Khashan said.

## Lebanese opposition figures to testify before U.S. Congress

PARIS (AFP) — Former Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and former Lebanese Prime Minister Michel Aoun, both living in exile in France, will testify before the U.S. Congress on the situation in Lebanon, they said Tuesday.

Gemayel and General Aoun, who fiercely oppose the Syrian presence in Lebanon, were invited to testify June 25 before the House of Representatives' international relations committee, which is holding a debate on Lebanon.

The committee is chaired by Representative Benjamin Gilman of New York, who is known for his pro-Israeli positions.

Gen. Aoun, a Maronite Christian, headed a military government between 1988 and 1990 which proclaimed a "war of liberation" against Syria before being chased from power in a Syrian-Lebanese military operation.

Syria, which has 35,000 troops stationed in Lebanon, is the predominant influence there.

The visit to the U.S. will be Gen. Aoun's first trip abroad since he began living in France. Mr. Gemayel, another opponent of Syria's presence in Lebanon, has been in frequent contact with members of the U.S. Congress. He was Lebanese president from 1982

to 1988.

"This is the first time that such a debate has been organised at this level, calling on Lebanese opposition figures," Mr. Gemayel told Agence France Presse (AFP).

Mr. Gemayel was a member of the Maronite Christian Falangist party which was allied with Israel when it invaded Lebanon in 1982 to fight the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Lebanese-U.S. relations are plagued by several contentious issues.

Since 1985, the U.S. administration has banned its citizens from visiting Lebanon, which it considers unsafe.

## Israeli premier steps up economic liberalisation drive

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched his long-awaited "liberal revolution" Tuesday by announcing that currency controls in place in Israel since the creation of the state in 1948 would be lifted over the next year.

But the prime minister ran into fierce opposition from Finance Minister Dan Meridor, a long-time political rival, over a related proposal to permit a wider fluctuation of the Israeli currency on world markets.

Mr. Netanyahu, who campaigned for election last year on a programme calling for radical liberalisation of the heavily state-influenced Israeli economy, said the decision would permit Israelis to freely purchase foreign currencies, open bank accounts overseas and invest in foreign stock markets and companies.

Current Israeli law restricts foreign currency purchases to persons travelling abroad and limits those purchases to \$3,000 per trip.

"This is a big step towards a true liberalisation of the Israeli economy," said Mr. Netanyahu, who readily acknowledges that his policies were inspired by the model imposed on Britain in the 1980s by then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Speaking after all-night talks with Mr. Meridor and Bank of Israel Governor



DESTROYING DRUGS: A Lebanese policeman oversees the destruction of 1,924 kilograms of confiscated drugs at the Bourj Hammoud incinerator by the Lebanese government on Tuesday. The drugs included cocaine, heroin, hallucination pills and hashish. Since 1992, Lebanese and Syrian forces have cut back the cultivation of illegal substances especially in the Bekaa Valley (Reuters photo)

## Malaysian premier holds talks with Lebanese leaders

BEIRUT (AFP) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad held talks here Tuesday with Lebanese leaders on ways to boost bilateral trade and establish joint industrial and tourism projects, officials said.

Mr. Mahathir held a closed meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri for an hour at the government palace in Beirut, government officials said.

and an agreement on investment guarantees and avoidance of double taxation.

The discussions also focused on opening embassies and trade offices in Beirut and Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia has maintained a consulate in Beirut since 1964, headed by a Lebanese national, while Lebanon's ambassador in Indonesia represents his country's interests in Malaysia.

Mr. Mahathir, who arrived in Lebanon Monday for a three-day visit, also held a round of talks with Lebanese House Speaker Nabih Berri at the parliament.

Mr. Mahathir and the 35-member Malaysian delegation, which also included prominent businessmen, toured the Beirut city centre area which is now being rebuilt by the \$1.82 billion joint-stock company Solidere.

They later chaired a larger meeting involving the foreign, transport and public works ministers of both countries as well as other senior officials.

The talks focused on increasing economic cooperation, particularly in the trade, industrial, tourism and services sectors.

Malaysian officials expressed particular interest in establishing joint industrial and tourism projects and disclosed plans to build a hotel in war-torn downtown Beirut.

Lebanon has embarked on an \$18 billion reconstruction programme launched after the 1975-1990 devastating civil war.

The officials also tackled plans to seal an accord between the two countries' central banks to cooperate in settling accounts operations

will rise again. The remarkable recovery currently underway is a testimony of Lebanon's indomitable spirit," Mr. Mahathir said during the dinner.

He was accompanied by a large number of businessmen. I hope that they will be given a chance to participate in bringing back to Lebanon its former status as the primary business centre in western Asia," he said.

On Wednesday, Mr. Mahathir will visit the ancient port city of Byblos and the Grottoes at the mountain village of Jeita, north of Beirut. He will then meet with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi before departing.

Lebanese Malaysia ties have expanded since Mr. Hariri visited Kuala Lumpur in 1995.

The volume of Malaysian exports to Lebanon stands at around \$200 million per year while Lebanese exports to Malaysia are a mere \$30,000, economic sources in Beirut said. Lebanese purchases from Malaysia include batteries, tyres, frozen and fresh produce, spices and palm oil. Some of the products are European or Japanese but made under license in Malaysia.

## Cairo court refuses analysis of alleged secret ink in Israeli spy case

CAIRO (AP) — A court trying an Israeli Arab accused of spying for Israel refused his lawyer's request Tuesday to test invisible ink prosecutors say was used to write secret messages.

Farid Al Deeb demanded that a forensic laboratory examine the substance, which an indictment alleges was obtained from women's underwear in the ink by contacts in Israel. The reputed ink is the key evidence in the case against Azam.

So far, the court has relied on the reports of intelligence officers. On Tuesday, it heard closed-door testimony from one of the officers, who said he had carried out tests on the

substance and verified that it was, in fact, invisible ink.

Presiding judge Moharam Darweesh told Al Deeb that the court was satisfied with the testimony and believed that Egypt's intelligence agency was qualified to perform the analysis.

Azam and an Egyptian man, Emad Abdul Hamid Ismail, went on trial last month on the charges of spying for Israel.

Prosecutors say two female Israeli agents recruited Azam in Israel after sleeping with him. They say Azam brought the women's underwear to Egypt and that Ismail was to use them to obtain the invisible ink and then write dispatches to his Israeli contacts.

Azam and Ismail have pleaded innocent to the spying charges. His alleged recruiters are being tried in absentia.

The case has become sensational in Egypt, where animosity toward Israel runs high despite the signing of a peace treaty in 1979. Israel has demanded his release, saying he was innocent.

Egyptian newspapers have sharply criticised Al Deeb and his fellow lawyers for agreeing to defend Azam.

In an incident May 18, a lawyer hit Al Deeb in the face inside the courtroom, while others screamed insults at him. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli diplomats present.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Border Town
18:00	French Programmes
19:00	News in French
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	Comedy — Grace Under Fire
20:00	Soldier's Diary
20:30	Challenges
21:10	Drama — Spencer for Hire
22:00	News in English
22:30	Land's End
23:15	American Gothic
01:05	Soccer Match — American Cup (Peru vs Venezuela)
PRAYER TIMES	
03:50	Fajr
05:25	Sunrise/Duha
12:37	Dhuhr
16:17	Asr
19:48	Maghreb
21:23	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeh, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366	

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Anglican Church Tel. 652826	Amman 19/34
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	Aqaba 27/42
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	Deserts 18/37
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	Jordan Valley 24/41
Amman International Church Tel. 5516245	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190	

Amman 19/34	Food Control Centre 637111
Aqaba 27/42	Civil Defence Department 661111
Deserts 18/37	Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Jordan Valley 24/41	Civil Defence Emergency 199
	Rescue Police 192 621111
	637777
	Fire Brigade 617101
	Blood Bank 775121
	Highway Police 843402
	Traffic Police 896390
	Public Security Department 630321
	Hotel Complaints 605800
	Price Complaints 661176
	Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
	Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
	Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
	Overseas Calls 010230
	Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
	Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Afif Shukri 898863	Food Control Centre 637111
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh 827195	Radio Jordan 774111
Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197	Water Authority 680100
Dr. Sa'ad Tawfiq 788285	Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Firas pharmacy 661912	Electric Power Company 636381
Ferdows pharmacy 890280	RJ Flight Information 08-
Al Asema pharmacy 637055	
Al Salam pharmacy 636730	
Yacoub pharmacy 644945	
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660	
Nairoukh pharmacy 632672	
Najib pharmacy 847632	
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484	
Al Quds pharmacy (—)	
ZARQA:	
Dr. Rafiq Atallah 994424	
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417	

**WEATHER**  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be hot with temperatures rising above their annual average at about 3 degrees. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, a heat wave will be affecting Jordan causing temperatures to rise above 36. In Aqaba, it will be hot and seas calm. Winds will be northerly moderate.

53200	Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32	
Khalidi Maternity, 64281/6	
Akileh Maternity, 64244/1/2	
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362	
Malhas, J. Amman 636140	
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071	
Shmeisani Hospital 669131	
University Hospital 845845	
Al-Musabir Hospital 667227/9	
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/57	
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6	
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3	
Al-Bashir, 775111/26	
Army, Marka 891611/15	
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50	
Amal Hospital 674155	
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199	
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323	
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560	
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732	
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990	
IRBID:	

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555	19:05	Rome (RJ)
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275	19:10	London, Berlin (RJ)
Ibn Al Nafess Hospital (02)247100	19:10	Frankfurt, Athens (RJ)
AQABA:	19:55	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111	19:20	Rome (RJ)
	00:15	Beirut (RJ)
	01:05	Cairo (RJ)
	04:25	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
	05:45	Muscat (RJ)

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 08/53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08/53250.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
08:05	Damascus (RJ)
09:25	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
10:15	Laraca (RJ)
15:55	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:40	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
18:05	Istanbul (RJ)

19:05	Rome (RJ)
19:10	London, Berlin (RJ)
19:10	Frankfurt, Athens (RJ)
19:55	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
19:20	Rome (RJ)
00:15	Beirut (RJ)
01:05	Cairo (RJ)
04:25	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
05:45	Muscat (RJ)
Other Flights	
09:15	Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
11:00	Sanaa, Hudaidah (Y)
12:00	Jeddah (SV)
13:00	Al'Arish (PF)
13:10	Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:15	Cairo (MS)
13:50	Tel Aviv (LY)
14:30	Tunis (TU)
15:05	Vienna (OS)
16:20	Algiers (AH)
17:00	Doha (Q7)
19:30	Istanbul, Damascus (PK)
21:10	Beirut (ME)
21:10	Paris, Damascus (AF)
23:20	Istanbul (TK)
23:25	Amsterdam (KL)
23:30	Athens (OA)
05:15	Ankara (TK)
07:50	Amsterdam (GA)

11:10	Rome (RJ)
11:45	Berlin, London (RJ)
12:40	Casablanca (RJ)
12:45	Istanbul (RJ)
20:10	Colombo (RJ)
20:35	Beirut (RJ)
21:10	Cairo (RJ)
21:10	Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
21:15	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:20	Bombay (RJ)
21:40	New Delhi (RJ)
23:00	Muscat (RJ)
23:30	Muscat (add) (RJ)
02:30	Dubai (add) (RJ)
23:45	Sanaa (RJ)
Other Flights	
06:50	Larnaca (CY)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
08:50	Amsterdam (GA)
09:25	London (BA)
10:00	Damascus, Istanbul (PK)
11:20	Cairo (MS)
12:00	Hudaidah, Sanaa (Y)
13:30	Jeddah (SV)
14:00	Al'Arish (PF)
14:00	Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
14:15	Cairo (MS)
15:10	Tel Aviv (LY)
15:30	Tunis (TU)
15:50	Vienna (OS)
17:20	Shanghai (AF)
17:50	Doha (Q7)
20:15	Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
23:55	Damascus, Paris (AF)
00:25	Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)
00:25	Ankara (TK)
04:00	Athens (OA)
06:15	Istanbul (TK)



## Jordan to brief Iraq, Syria on outcome of Prince Hassan's visit to Turkey

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will brief Iraq on the outcome of HRH Crown Prince Hassan's talks with Turkish leaders during his recent visit to Ankara on Turkey's military incursion into northern Iraq, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi announced Tuesday.

In a press briefing following a regular cabinet session Dr. Mutawi said that Ankara has reaffirmed to Jordan that its military operations in northern Iraq are limited and that the Turkish leaders shared Jordan's concern in preserving Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Prince Hassan paid a one day visit to Turkey before travelling to the U.S. seeking the Turkish leadership's position on the operation. Dr. Mutawi said that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali briefed the cabinet on his telephone contact with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zubi in which he conveyed to him the results of Prince Hassan's talks in Ankara.

The two prime ministers agreed to convene a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-

Syrian Higher Committee, and officials from both sides will be in touch to set a date for the meeting, according to Dr. Mutawi.

Dr. Majali also briefed the cabinet members on his expected visit to the United Arab Emirates in the coming week, and to Tunisia, towards the end of this month, as well as his expected visit to Bahrain in July, and the upcoming Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meeting in Cairo on July 5.

Dr. Mutawi said that these meetings are designed to bolster Jordan's relations with the other Arab states.

The cabinet discussed a memorandum from Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf on the coming negotiations with the World Bank on the financing of infrastructure projects in Wadi Rum, estimated to cost \$44 million. Jordan's contribution to the project will be \$12 million.

Dr. Mutawi said that the negotiations, slated for June 21, will also cover compensation for landowners in the areas where the projects, mainly in the tourism sector, will be

implemented.

The Council of Ministers approved a \$257,000 grant from the Japanese government to finance consultancy and feasibility studies for the recycling of treated waste water in Amman and Zarqa and authorised the minister of planning to sign the agreement.

Acting upon recommendations from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Higher Council for Investment Promotion, the cabinet consented to consider the following sectors' investment projects for customs duty exemptions: Tourism projects (including entertainment parks, resorts and tourist villages and trade fair complexes); vocational training centres; and artistic and technical production centres (including television and movie production and cinema studios).

The cabinet also formed a delegation led by Civil Aviation Authority Director Jasser Ziyad to hold talks in the Netherlands on air transport agreement between Jordan and the Netherlands on June 23.

## Opposition condemns Congress' Jerusalem move

AMMAN (J.T.) — Opposition deputies condemned on Monday a recent voting by the U.S. Congress recognising Jerusalem as the unified capital of the state of Israel.

In a press statement received by the Jordan Times yesterday, the group of parliamentarians described the decision as a "new aggressive step against Jerusalem, Palestine, and the Arab Islamic Nation, as well as a clear aggression against the Arab causes."

"The American House of Representatives does not have the right to include the Jerusalem issue in its agenda or to discuss it."

In their statement, the opposition deputies also called on the heads of Arab states to "reconsider their views on the U.S. patronage of the peace process," and strongly criticised the U.S. mediation role as "biased, against our interests and causes."

## 20 people turn up to protest Turkish incursion into Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — A small group, not more than 20 people, answered the call of 11 opposition parties and turned out for a sit-in to protest Turkish military operations in northern Iraq.

The secretary general and the president of the Jordanian Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party, Tayseer Homs and deputy Khalil Haddadin, took part in the 10-minute demonstration in front of the United Nations (U.N.) headquarters in Shmeisani, along with Al Hashd Secretary General Salem Nahhas.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that the authorities gave authorisation for the sit-in provided that no more than 30 people took part in it.

Another group of around 10 men watching the sit-in identified themselves as members of the security forces.

Two police cars were also watching the protest. The higher committee for

coordination among the opposition parties last week launched a campaign to sensitise "the Arab people" on the need to take actions against "the Turkish invasion of Iraq."

In an open letter to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, the opposition parties "express the people's anger and worry for Turkey's military aggression against northern Iraq, which increases the suffering of the Iraqi people, already agonising on a 6-year long embargo imposed on them."

The U.N. non-intervention "in this crisis justifies lack of trust in it as an international body capable of settling controversies between countries according to the principles of international law, equality and justice," the opposition parties said, urging the U.N. secretary general to "demand the immediate withdrawal of Turkish

troops [from Iraq] and compensation for all losses caused by their aggression."

In a communiqué to Arab heads of state also last week, the 11 opposition parties, ranging from the Islamic Action Front (IAF) to the Jordanian Communist Party (JCP), called for "collective action to halt Turkey's aggression on Iraq and abort the ambitious designs of the Turkish-Israeli alliance."

In an earlier interview, Mr. Nahhas told the Jordan Times the 11 parties grouped in the higher committee were planning to call a general meeting of all Arab parties.

"We feel that there is a need for all Arab parties to address, with a unified stand, the Turkish invasion of Iraqi soil," Mr. Nahhas said, adding that the projected conference might take place in Damascus and the 11 opposition parties

have already initiated contacts with the Syrian authorities.

Turkey started military operations in Iraq on May 14, deploying 25,000 troops backed by tanks and air power against the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

Earlier this week, international news agencies reported that Ankara started a partial withdrawal from northern Iraq and up to 100 tanks crossed back into Turkey.

The news reports fuel the withdrawal with increased speculations of a military coup in Turkey, where Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan is expected to resign on Wednesday to make way for his conservative coalition partner, former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, to take over.

## Ministry starts campaign to aid beggars, homeless

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Department of Social Development in the Irbid Governorate Salman Abanda said Tuesday that the department has begun a two-month campaign to find caring homes for beggars and the homeless.

Mr. Abanda said that two charitable centres in Irbid, Al Manar and Al Amal Centre for the Deaf, have agreed to take on the young beggars and give them shelter until the department can find a permanent solution for their cases.

He said that the department is being assisted by local police who will investigate the background of adult beggars or the homeless to determine if they are needy or to see if they practice begging only "as a profession."

Those in the latter category will be referred to the courts.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Mamsar said Monday that campaigns for ridding the streets of beggars and

homeless started in Amman on Saturday and that ministry officials, in cooperation with the police, have rounded up 92 beggars, or whom 30 have been returned to their families after pledging not to return to begging or living in the streets.

The minister called on non-governmental charitable organisations to extend support to the ministry's efforts by caring for the homeless, especially children.

The minister said that the campaigns will last until the end of summer and that work is underway for the creation of special voluntary teams to assume the task of removing beggars and homeless people from the streets in various cities.

Dr. Maser also expressed his ministry's willingness to cooperate with the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) in creating centres for the homeless, which eventually would be run by charitable organisations.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 8 physiotherapists graduate

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid Tuesday attended a graduation ceremony held at Farah Centre of Hussein Medical Centre and presented diplomas to 8 graduates who have successfully completed requirements of training in physiotherapy from the physiotherapy college.

### Rifai receives Yacoub Khan

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Zeid Rifai Tuesday received former Pakistani Foreign Minister Saheb Zada Yacoub Khan and exchanged with him views on international and regional issues.

### Badran elected PARFOS secretary

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the Jordanian Society for Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists, Hassan Badran, has been elected as secretary general of the Pan-Arab Federation of ENT Societies (PARFOS). Dr. Badran was elected to the position during the first congress of PARFOS held in Beirut last week.

### Latvia names honorary consul

AMMAN (J.T.) — A press release from the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that Khaled Miqdadi has been appointed as Latvia's honorary consul in Jordan. The appointment will boost Latvia's cooperation with Middle Eastern countries, the press release said. The May 30th agreement was signed between Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs and the honorary consul. Mr. Miqdadi has been commissioned to perform the duties in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations for three years, the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated.



Medical Aid for Children (IMA) representative and journalist Itsuko Hirata shipping off medicine for Iraqi children

## Medical aid donated by Japanese heads for Iraq Friday

By Tanya Habjouqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A convoy bearing humanitarian aid from a Japanese humanitarian society, headed by a prominent Japanese journalist, Friday will depart for Baghdad.

The contents of the convoy, says Medical Aid for Children (IMA) representative and journalist Itsuko Hirata, are 25 tonnes of desperately needed medicine for Iraqi children.

Ms. Hirata — IMA founder — will leave Thursday for Aqaba to pick up three containers of medicinal supplies donated by the Hyogo prefecture in Japan, before leaving to Baghdad.

Iraq's people, particularly children, have been devastated by seven years of U.N.-imposed economic sanctions slapped on the country following its invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990.

Human rights organisations have been particularly concerned about Iraq's inability to import medicine during the sanctions regime. The U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation has reported that 12 per cent of children in Baghdad die, 28 per cent are stunted and 29 per cent are under weight. The WHO has reported that deaths related to diarrhoeal disease have tripled. The government of Iraq has reported that more than 500,000 children have died since the beginning of the sanctions, the majority are under five years of age, and most from curable diseases.

"Iraqi children born dur-

ing the Gulf war were born to die," Ms. Hirata said. "Children are dying daily from a lack of proper medical attention, and are in desperate need of medicinal aid."

The medical supplies were originally intended for victims of the 1995 Hyogo earthquake. Extra supplies had been kept in storage in case of a future earthquake, and were nearing a disposal date.

When Ms. Hirata was informed of the disposal plan she sought a method to secure the medicine to alleviate Iraqi suffering.

A freelance journalist who has covered the Middle East, Ms. Hirata said she was inspired to undertake the mission by the evermore devastating news emanating from Iraq.

"These people are dying without medicine, something has to be done," Ms. Hirata told the Jordan Times.

After an initial refusal from the prefecture, Ms. Hirata began her own media campaign, visiting Iraqi mothers and children and presenting press reports in Japan. A one-hour documentary in Japan on Iraqi suffering provoked a more positive response.

In December of 1996 the Hyogo prefecture agreed to donate the supplies, provided that the medicine would be dispersed to children, that a society be formed to execute the project, and that such an endeavour procure U.N. Security Council approval.

In February of 1997 Ms. Hirata founded IMA with six members, and began campaigning and collecting

donations for the mission. "The entire trip was funded by donations from 1,000 concerned Japanese people," she said. "This is a beautiful example of solidarity and cooperation."

The U.N. Security Council granted IMA an export permit in April of 1997, the first such permit granted by the council, she said.

She said that the U.N. oil-for-food deal had supplied the Iraqis with much needed food, but that hospitals were completely bereft of medicine, and she criticised the sanctions saying that they "hurt innocent people; they do not affect Saddam (Hussein) or his regime."

The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JRCS) is also aiding the mission, helping to transport three trucks of medical supplies directly to Baghdad, she said.

The supplies will be distributed to the Baghdad Central Children's Hospital, Basra Children's Hospital and the Mosul Children's Hospital.

"I hope that more people will become involved and we can together fight for humanitarian aid," she concluded.

The IMA mission to Iraq will be the second small-scale humanitarian mission to Iraq this month. Earlier this month, four U.S. citizens travelled to Iraq with \$60,000 in medical aid in contravention of U.N. sanctions and in contravention of U.S. federal law.



Her Royal Highness Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan Tuesday attends a graduation ceremony at Princess Sarvath College and presents diplomas to the graduating students and awards to excellent students (Petra photo)

## Protection of intellectual property rights prerequisite for joining WTO

By Ghalia Alul  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A symposium on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) opened Tuesday with participants emphasising the importance of implementing the provisions of the agreement as a condition to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The three-day symposium, organised by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Youth, brought together 60 participants from 11 Arab countries to address the implications for developing countries in establishing an appropriate infrastructure for the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs) as prescribed by the TRIPS agreement.

Participants will also discuss the economic and social impact of piracy and counterfeiting and the cooperation between WIPO and the WTO in implementing the TRIPS agreement among other issues.

At the opening ceremony, Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Halaqa emphasised the importance

of drafting and endorsing national legislation to implement TRIPS, which is binding to all WTO member states.

"The TRIPS agreement is very important because it addresses all aspects of IPRs," said Dr. Halaqa.

However, he added that the public sector might perceive TRIPS as an infringement on national sovereignty since the public sector will be required to conduct institutional, administrative and legislative reform to find a proper mechanism that protects intellectual property.

He added that the private sector could also perceive the agreement as a barrier to productivity and export opportunities because of increases in production cost.

Dr. Halaqa explained that owners of patent rights and trade marks could use their rights to monopolise prices to their own interests.

"This might go beyond the financial and production capabilities of our companies," he said. "Some concession agreements impose strict conditions precluding the smooth transfer of technology."

Although the private and public sectors' fears might be justifiable, Dr. Halaqa said the success of econom-

ic and social development depends on developing countries' ability to utilise technology and its application in achieving development goals.

In his address to the meeting, Minister of Culture and Youth Qassem Abu Ein rejected the "popular notion" that committing to IPRs benefits only advanced nations on the presumption that developing countries are importers by default.

He stressed the need to respect IPRs, especially because most Arab inventions tend to "emigrate" to seek foreign protection.

"Things will stay the same if we do not participate in international agreements that protect these rights," Dr. Abu Ein said.

WIPO Deputy Director General Kamel Idris told the meeting that his organisation was keen on supporting developing countries in their efforts to respect IPRs.

He reiterated the importance of addressing the economic and social impact of piracy and counterfeiting as well as establishing the proper infrastructure to preserve IPRs as prescribed by the TRIPS agreement.

### PLAY

\* "Adam... Alone" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### LECTURES

\* "The Importance of Wildlife Plants and Their Distribution" by Dr. Mahmoud Al Jundi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman

at 5:00 p.m.

\* "The Educated and the Building Up of the Civil Society" by Dr. Abdul Ghani Abed Azm at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Works by Namat Al Naser at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until June 30.

\* Paintings by contemporary Iraqi artists entitled "Ecology and Environment in Iraqi Art" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays).

\* Photo exhibition of Hong Kong, sponsored by the Chinese embassy, at the Royal Cultural Centre, until June 19.

\* Works by Abdul Basit Naqqash and Sa'd Hussein entitled "Heritage and Culture" at the gallery of the Jordan Plastic Artists Association, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 21.

\* Art exhibition by Ibrahim Al Abdali at the Orient Art Gallery, Shmeisani, Issam Ajlouni Street, until June 19.

\* Spring Exhibition of Plastic Art '97 at Greater Amman Municipality, Ras Al 'Ain, until June 30.

\* "One-of-a-Kind artists" book exhibit at the American Centre, Amman, until June 25.

\* Exhibition of works by Farouq Lambaz at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 19.



## China dissatisfied with Taiwan foreign minister's U.S. trip

**BEIJING (R)** — China said Tuesday it had expressed serious concern and dissatisfaction to Washington over a visit to the United States by the foreign minister of rival Taiwan.

"The Chinese side has made solemn representations with the U.S. side over the U.S. visit of Taiwan's so-called Foreign Minister John Chang to express the Chinese side's serious concern and dissatisfaction," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Cui Tiankai told a news briefing.

Beijing and Taipei have been diplomatic rivals since the Communists won the Chinese Civil War and sent Chiang Kai-Shek's Nationalist troops fleeing into exile on the island in 1949.

Mr. Chang, a grandson of Chiang Kai-Shek, is visiting the United States. Mr. Chang bears his mother's surname.

Mr. Cui said Washington should restrict ties with the island to an unofficial level.

"The Chinese side has asked the U.S. side to abide by its promise to restrict U.S.-Taiwan relations to an unofficial arena," the spokesman said.

"We have always been opposed to the United States and Taiwan engaging in any form of official contact," Mr. Cui said.

Washington switched diplomatic relations to Beijing from Taipei in 1979. Beijing regards Taiwan as a rebel province and has sought to push the island into diplomatic isolation.

Mr. Cui urged the United States to "take concrete action to eliminate disruption of Sino-U.S. ties by the Taiwan question."

Sino-U.S. relations went into a tailspin after the United States granted a visa to Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui for a private visit to attend a Cornell University class reunion in June 1995.

In Washington, the State Department said Monday

Mr. Chang was on a private visit, a "normal element" in unofficial ties with Taiwan.

Apparently to placate China, the State Department emphasised that Mr. Chang was not scheduled to come to Washington.

During his nine-day visit, Mr. Chang was to speak at a World Affairs Conference in Los Angeles and attend a forum in Beaver Brook, Colorado, arranged by the Private American Enterprise Institute. Taiwanese officials said.

Mr. Chang told a meeting of Southern California's business and political leaders Monday his island state was committed to reunification with mainland China, but that it would take time.

"It takes time, wisdom, patience, and most important of all, world support, to persuade mainland China to take us as her equal ... There is no easy walk to reunification," Mr. Chang told the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, a civic group made

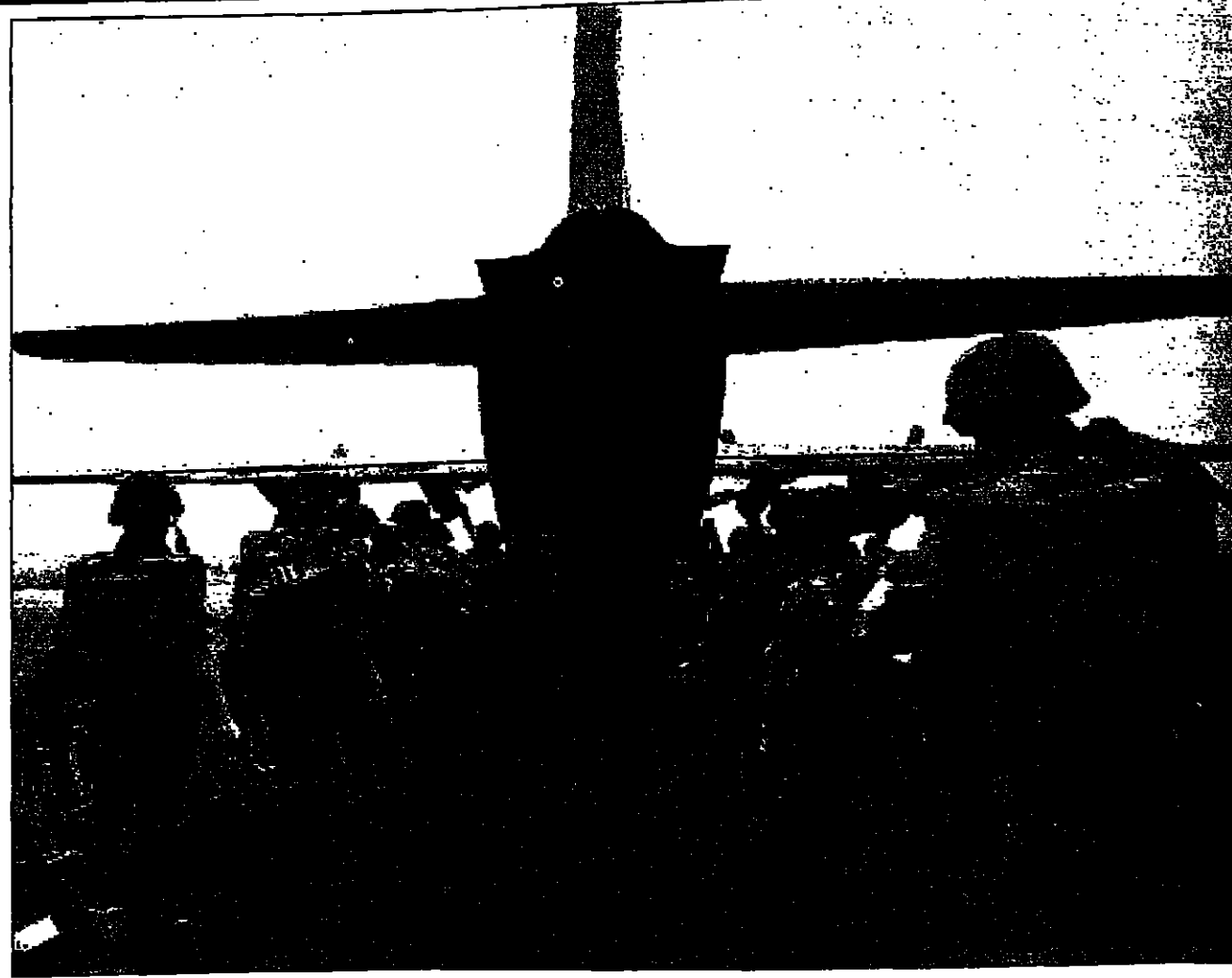
up of prominent leaders in commerce and politics.

Mr. Chang, coming off successful tours of Europe and Africa, said Taiwan was "committed to China's unification."

Mr. Chang stressed that his European trip was "private" as was his appearance in Los Angeles Monday. As such he was not scheduled to meet with any U.S. government officials.

But he said his message while in the United States was to aid the unification process while pointing out that Taiwan was an important trade partner of the United States and was taking major steps to decrease the trade deficit between the two.

Mr. Chang said: "The reunification of China remains our national policy," but indicated it could only come about when mainland China embraces democracy, a condition Taiwan has voiced on numerous occasions.



French troops enter a transport plane at Brazzaville Airport. France began pulling its troops out of the Congo Republic Monday after evacuating more than 5,000 foreign nationals caught up in a bloody political and ethnic dispute in its former colony (Reuter photo)

## Cambodian rebels resume Radio broadcasts, lash out at Pol Pot

**PHNOM PENH (R)** — The Khmer Rouge's clandestine radio station broke a four-day silence and resumed broadcasting Tuesday with a statement accusing guerrilla strongman Pol Pot of betraying his comrades.

"From the 9th to 14th of June, there were betrayals by Pol Pot. But this problem has been solved quietly by the unity forces," said an announcement read during broadcasts Monday evening and Tuesday morning.

It was the first time the guerrillas have broadcast since last Thursday.

The rebel radio appeared to be in the hands of anti-Pol Pot guerrillas. It said the statement was that of a provisional government loyal to nominal Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and his National Solidarity Party.

Mr. Khieu Samphan, who has been the president of the Khmer Rouge's provisional government for years, recently announced that he had formed the National Solidarity Party and wanted to form a political alliance with Cambodian co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

The prince welcomed the idea. Mr. Pol Pot, mastermind of their 1975-79 "killing fields" regime, is said to be on the run in the north of the country after he murdered his Defence Chief Son Sen and 11 of his family on June 10.

Most of Mr. Pol Pot's fighters have since deserted him, with several Khmer Rouge divisions at the rebels' northern Anlong Veng stronghold said to be considering switching loyalties to the government.

About 95 per cent of the rebels in Anlong Veng and a group of rebels with Mr. Pol Pot want to join the government, Prince Ranariddh said.

Khmer Rouge Radio took the side of Prince Ranariddh Tuesday, expressing support for his political alliance.

"(We) continue to maintain our political stance to join against the genocidal role of the Communist Vietnamese and their puppet, who is Hun Sen, more actively and

strongly," it said.

Mr. Hun Sen was with the Vietnamese invasion force that eventually overthrew the Khmer Rouge regime and later led the Hanoi-backed government that ruled until 1991. He then formed an uneasy alliance with Prince Ranariddh after U.N.-backed elections in 1993.

More than one million Cambodians died during the Khmer Rouge's disastrous experiment in total communism through executions, starvation, disease and hard labour. The rebels have considered peace before.

They signed a 1991 peace pact meant to end Cambodia's long history of conflict, but later reneged on the deal and have been waging a low-intensity war against the coalition government.

The situation is causing friction between Prince Ranariddh and co-premier Mr. Hun Sen.

Prince Ranariddh said Tuesday there was nothing wrong with talking to the rebels in Anlong Veng, but Mr. Hun Sen Monday called all talks with remaining hardline Khmer Rouge illegal and threatened to arrest those who negotiated with the Maoist guerrillas.

Cambodia's two prime ministers have said they would likely ask the United Nations to help convene an international tribunal to bring Pol Pot and others responsible for the "killing fields" to justice, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

Thomas Hammarberg, a senior U.N. human rights representative, said: "The important thing is that the international procedure start as soon as possible."

Mr. Hammarberg said he had separately met with co-premiers Prince Ranariddh and Mr. Hun Sen in the past day and asked them to make a formal request to the U.N. for international assistance in setting up trials.

"I have reason to believe that such a request will be made," said Mr. Hammarberg, the special representative of the U.N. secretary-general for human rights in Cambodia.

## Oklahoma bombing saga enters new stage

**DENVER (R)** — Lawyers for Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh began staking out ground Monday to appeal his conviction and death sentence as the state of Oklahoma said it would try him for mass murder this year.

Michael Tigar, lawyer for alleged co-conspirator Terry Nichols, meanwhile, asked Federal Trial Judge Richard Matsch not to disclose how much taxpayer money was spent defending Mr. McVeigh, a figure published reports have put as high as \$10 million. Mr. Nichols is to go on trial sometime this year.

Mr. Tigar said in a court filing Friday he was concerned that revealing how the money was spent would make public the investigative leads that Mr. McVeigh's attorneys followed.

"Allowing the public and therefore the government to learn those avenues of defence that the McVeigh team investigated ... would give the prosecution unfair insight into potential Nichols defence strategies," he wrote.

A jury Friday sentenced Mr. McVeigh to die by lethal injection for the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Office Building that killed 168 people and injured more than 500 others.

Mr. McVeigh's chief attorney Stephen Jones, who has come under criticism from some lawyers for his strategy in admitting his client's guilt in the penalty phase of the case, said Monday he was planning appeals. Legal experts said the appeals could take years to work their way through the legal system.

Mr. Jones told CBS Television's This Morning programme that possible issues for appeal include Judge Matsch's refusal to grant the defence a delay in the trial after the Dallas Morning News published a report alleging Mr. McVeigh had confessed to his attorneys — a charge Mr. Jones has denied.

Two other issues that could figure in an appeal are Judge Matsch's refusal to let the defence present witnesses who would testify about a possible international conspiracy that Mr. Jones says may lie behind the bombing, and the judge's refusal to admit a Justice Department report highly critical of work done by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Laboratory.

As Mr. McVeigh's lawyers staked out grounds for appeal, Oklahoma vowed to push ahead with plans to try Mr. McVeigh in the state for the bombing.

## Congo breakthrough eludes African leaders

**LIBREVILLE (R)** — African heads of state and U.N. special envoy Mohammad Sahnoun have failed to achieve a breakthrough to end a bloody power struggle that has devastated the capital of the Congo Republic.

Small-arms firing continued around the airport through the night.

The International Mediation Committee, led by Gabon's veteran President, Omar Bongo, said it would carry on trying to settle the crisis which has raged since June 5 and derailed plans for a July 27 presidential election.

A statement Monday night, after a day of bilateral meetings with representatives of the warring parties and Congolese mediators, said it had been unable to find enough common ground for dialogue but called for an immediate ceasefire.

It did not make clear whether fresh talks would be held.

Mr. Bongo, whose father-in-law Denis Sassou Nguesso is one of the warring parties, hosted the talks with

the help of the presidents of Chad, Mali and the Central African Republic against the background of a fresh clash in Brazzaville.

"The international mediation committee on the Congo crisis notes that for the moment it has not been able to bring the interested parties round to a certain number of proposals which it thinks would help promote an environment for dialogue and consultation," the committee said.

Supporters of Congolese President Pascal Lissouba and Mr. Sassou Nguesso, his predecessor, have engaged in political and ethnic fighting in Brazzaville for nearly two weeks.

French troops, who went to Brazzaville on standby to evacuate foreign nationals from Kinshasa, the capital of former Zaire across the river, have evacuated 5,719 foreign nationals who fled the fighting.

France began pulling out its troops Monday in spite of an appeal from Mr. Lissouba for them to stay and form part of an international buffer force. French

military officials say the withdrawal is likely to take about a week.

Around the airport the two sides fought with small arms through the night, with occasional blasts from mortars or rocket-propelled grenades.

"There is no change in their positions. They are just firing to intimidate each other," French army spokesman Colonel Henry Pellissier told Reuters. "What happens after we go? Who knows?" he said.

Local people say the airport will become the focus of fighting when the French withdraw.

Soldiers of the Foreign Legion Infantry Regiment packed their kits and prepared to depart. French troops have already pulled out of the town centre and are restricting to protecting the departure from the airport.

A separate contingent protects the ambassador, who has tried to mediate in the crisis and who is staying in Brazzaville.

The clashes began after troops surrounded Mr. Sas-

sou Nguesso's home as part of a crackdown on private militia and illegal weapons ahead of the July election.

Mediators said one item on the agenda in Libreville was deployment of an African force, along the lines of one in Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic where three army revolts in under a year triggered similar ethnic and political slaughter.

Health workers have been unable to piece together a reliable death toll for the Brazzaville clashes, which some sources say have killed hundreds, if not, several thousand people.

Mr. Lissouba's loyalists and Mr. Sassou Nguesso's militia traded rockets against mortar shells and rocket-propelled grenades Monday after a relative lull early in the day.

The two leaders declared a ceasefire last Wednesday but it has not taken hold.

Mr. Sassou Nguesso ran the country from 1979 to 1992, when Mr. Lissouba defeated him in multi-party elections.

## 8 suspected of coup plot arrested in Sierra Leone

**FREETOWN (R)** — Sierra Leone's military rulers said Monday they had arrested eight army officers and seven civilians on suspicion of plotting a fresh coup and trying to enlist the support of rebel fighters.

Colonel Abdul Seasey, director of military information, told Reuters the civilians had offered money and rice to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) commanders who rallied to the May 25 coup and who had denounced the plot.

Military officials said those arrested included Sama Banya, a prominent politician in the Sierra Leone People's Party of elected civilian President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, who was ousted by junior army officers on May 25.

"Some military officers and civilians were inciting top members of the RUF to overthrow the AFRC government," the leader of the May 25 coup, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, told visiting

tribal leaders.

Witnesses reported increased security at strategic points in the city such as the National Radio and Television Station. Col. Seasey said those arrested would be brought to trial or court martial shortly.

The rebels, who took up arms in 1991, rallied to the May 25 coup and have flooded into the capital Freetown.

Earlier, a member of the Armed Forces Ruling Council (AFRC) said the May 25 coup leaders were prepared to accept deployment of United Nations and West African peacekeepers to disarm combatants and ensure security under any peace deal.

He told Reuters the coup leaders had held regular meetings with parliamentarians who put forward a 10-point plan and that the two sides were close to agreement.

He said conclusion of a deal would open the way for

a national conference on the future of the country, which has suffered three coups in five years, but added that some of the junior officers who staged the coup had misgivings.

"We are willing to allow the stationing of U.N. and ECOMOG peacekeeping forces in Sierra Leone to monitor the peace accord (when one is agreed) and to disarm combatants and ensure stability," the AFRC member said.

ECOMOG is the Nigerian-led West African force deployed in neighbouring Liberia to end seven years of civil war there.

"We are talking with the former parliamentarians about revoking the decree issued by the AFRC which banned the constitution," the AFRC member added, hinting at a possible deal on restoration of political activity.

Civilian politicians and Sierra Leone's West African neighbours insist that Mr.

Kabbah be reinstated, something the coup leaders have rejected.

They accuse Mr. Kabbah of humiliating the army, inciting tribalism and blocking peace with the rebels.

"The idea of trying to bring back Tejan Kabbah as president meant that they were not interested in peace," the AFRC member said of the politicians.

Nigerian gunboats bombarded the capital Freetown in a show of force on June 2 and dissident soldiers and rebels attacked Nigerian soldiers who were there under a defence accord. The United States, France, Lebanon and other nations evacuated their own and other foreign nationals.

But a widely anticipated Nigerian attack has not materialised.

Mr. Kabbah took office in March 1996 after multi-party polls, held in spite of the civil war, ended four years of army rule.

## Indonesian military declares 'war' on rioters in East Java

**JAKARTA (AFP)** — The Indonesian military has declared "war" on rioters in the province of East Java, following recent violence there that left scores injured and a trail of damage, reports said Tuesday.

"From now on we are declaring war against rioters," East Java military commander Major General Imam Utomo was quoted by the Media Indonesia daily as saying in Surabaya, capital of East Java.

"There is no other means left but to disperse rioters with force, if necessary, by shooting," Maj. Utomo said according to the Kompas daily.

Mob violence, mostly linked to the general elections that ended May 29, has hit several Muslim stronghold towns in East Java since April.

"People should understand that there are rioters who want to disturb society and lead them to become restless," Media Indonesia quoted Maj. Utomo as saying.

Thousands of people in the Sampang district on Madura Island, angered by preliminary poll results that indicated victory for the ruling Golkar Party, attacked government offices, houses and polling stations, burning ma-

ny ballot boxes in the process.

Sporadic violence continued for many days, including in other parts of Madura, and voting was repeated at 65 polling sites in Sampang on June 4.

Discontent over election results was believed to have sparked riots in Jember, East Java, Friday, in Bangkalan, Madura, Saturday and in Pasuruan on the northern coast of East Java Sunday.

The weekend unrest left at least 15 people injured and a vast trail of damage.

Maj. Utomo said the military had deployed 30 companies of soldiers (about 3,000 men) in affected areas.

"In areas where there were protests during the campaign or on election day, the provincial military command will now maintain troops," he said.

East Java Governor Basofi Sudirman said there were similarities in the techniques used by the rioters and the outlawed Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), the Jakarta daily reported.

Indonesia banned the PKI shortly after accusing it of instigating a coup attempt in 1965. The authorities have since repeatedly used the Communist bogey to crush dissent.

"It appears that their movement have been prepared for a long time and they were only seeking for the appropriate momentum to cause unrest," Mr. Basofi said.

The Antara news agency quoted East Java Police Chief Major General Sumarsono as saying in Surabaya Monday that rioters as well as the "mastermind" behind the recent unrest would be sought.

The police will bring to court those arrested in connection with the violence, with no exception, Maj. Gen. Sumarsono said.

On the unrest in Sampang, he said there were three criminal dossiers ready for the courts, but did not say how many people were implicated.

In Sumenep, also in Madura, 13 suspects were detained while in Bangkalan, some 15 people were being questioned in connection with the weekend unrest.

In Jember and Pasuruan, police were investigating the incidents.

Hundreds of people clashed with security forces in a protest of what they saw as election fraud at the local district chief's office in Jember Friday. Nine people were wounded by gunshots, Media Indonesia daily said.

## Bangladeshi gas fire could rage for weeks — company

**SRIMANGAL (R)** — A raging fire at a Bangladeshi natural gas field may take weeks to extinguish, said an official of U.S.-based Occidental Petroleum Corporation.

"It might take from two weeks to two months to fully tame the blaze. It all depends on how quickly we could mobilise (fire fighting) equipment at the site," Skip Coyner, drilling manager of Occidental at Mughachhara Gas Field in Northeastern Moulvi Bazar district, told Reuters.

Fire-fighting experts from the United States and Singapore have been called in to help contain the blaze,

which began early Sunday following a drilling rig explosion.

Four Bangladeshis were injured in the fire, which police said caused workers at two nearby tea gardens and thousands of villagers to flee in panic. Nearby railway tracks also caught fire, disrupting train services.

Forty-five people were working on the rig at the time of the accident but no one was seriously injured, Mr. Coyner said.

"We are at least happy we could save 45 lives. A few got some cuts and bruises," he said.

Officials with the state-owned oil and gas company

Petrobangla said the government was keeping a chartered plane on standby to fly the foreign experts to the field.

Occidental began drilling at Mughachhara early this month after it entered a production sharing deal with Bangladesh.

Mr. Coyner said fire-fighting experts from Singapore were expected in Bangladesh Tuesday. Experts from Occidental's U.S. headquarters would also arrive shortly, said Energy Secretary Tanvir-e-Elahi Chowdhury.

"The equipment will follow from the United States or from Kuwait," Mr. Coyner said.

Energy Ministry officials said the accident occurred when the drilling rig hit a "trap gas" layer at a depth of 840 metres, destroying all the equipment and sending flames shooting into the air.

Energy Minister Nooruddin Khan visited the gas field Monday, state television reported. It said the blaze had dropped in intensity but gave no further details.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered "immediate steps" to extinguish the fire and investigate the cause, state-run Radio Bangladesh said.



A hearse carrying the body of one of two murdered policemen sits at the scene close to Lurgan Police Station where they were shot by Irish Republican Army gunmen. Britain said it had broken off contacts with Sinn Fein, the political wing of the outlawed IRA, after the group admitted the killings (Reuters photo)

## No sign of IRA violence easing, police chief says

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland's police chief said Tuesday his force was on alert for further IRA attacks after an ambush that killed two officers and threw the stumbling peace process into turmoil.

"All the indications we have lead us to believe that in the immediate future there is no prospect of a restoration of a cessation of violence," Ronnie Flanagan warned.

The attack at midday Monday in the busy market town of Lurgan raised fears of possible revenge attacks by pro-British Loyalist gunmen who operate a shaky truce.

As London, Dublin and Washington expressed outrage, Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's political wing, was facing further isolation.

The party has been excluded from year-long multi-party peace talks sponsored by the British and Irish governments because the IRA

refuses to reinstate a ceasefire that collapsed in February 1996.

Royal Ulster Constabulary Chief Flanagan urged public calm but told Sky Television: "Certainly our officers are on full alert for repetitions of this type of dastardly and cowardly behaviour."

The guerrillas have waged a violent campaign for 28 years to end British rule and merge Northern Ireland with the neighbouring Irish Republic.

Britain abruptly ended tentative contacts with Sinn Fein after Monday's ambush. The United States and Ireland voiced disgust at the killings.

"The United States government too is outraged by the callous murder of two policemen in Northern Ireland," White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters Monday.

"The IRA has claimed responsibility for what is ultimately an outrageous act of

cowardice, an outrageous act of terrorism."

Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator who wants a place for his group in all-party talks, refused to condemn the murders but offered sympathy to the victims' families.

"I have worked with many others over the course of the last four or five years to put in place a real conflict resolution situation where there would be no more deaths on our streets," he told BBC Radio.

"The only way that we can guarantee that that can happen, I believe, is by putting in place a real and meaningful peace settlement."

Protestant and Catholic parties said the attack was aimed at deepening a centuries-old sectarian rift at a time of tension over impending pro-British street parades.

Northern Ireland's Protestant majority favours continued rule by Britain.

Ireland and Britain said

the IRA was trying to sabotage a peace initiative just when it might have made progress.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said the attack was callous and brutal.

"It is also something that has been designed to frustrate a process that was bringing hope to the people of Northern Ireland," he said Monday during a European Union summit.

At his shoulder a grimaced Irish Prime Minister John Bruton also condemned the double murder.

"I believe that Sinn Fein approves fully the activities of the IRA. I believe that Sinn Fein does the political bidding of the same leadership that leads the IRA and Sinn Fein," Mr. Bruton said later.

Bertie Ahern, the opposition leader who is expected to replace Mr. Bruton later this month following June 6 election successes, described the killing as evil and provocative.

## Taleban seize several areas in northern Afghan province

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The Taleban Islamic army seized several districts of a key Northern Afghanistan province in a pre-dawn assault Tuesday, a private Afghan news service said.

Taleban fighters entered Kunduz province at the "invitation of local commanders," the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said quoting Taleban spokesman Wakil Ahmad.

Fighting was going on between the airport and the city of Kunduz, Mr. Ahmad said claiming the airbase fell to the Taleban early Tuesday.

Militia fighters crossed into the area from Baghlan province where a big Taleban force is concentrated, AIP said.

"We have not moved a large force into Kunduz," Mr. Ahmad said adding the bulk of the fighters were still in Baghlan.

No immediate confirmation of the Taleban claims was available.

Kunduz is an important province on Afghanistan's border with the former Soviet republics. The Oxus River forms the border.

Afghan sources said Kunduz was administered by a mixed coalition with several ethnic Pushtun commanders holding parts of some districts.

AIP said commanders of a pro-Saudi Afghan faction of Rasul Sayyaf and the Jamiat Islami of former President Burhanuddin Rabbani had been in favour of fellow Pushtun Taleban who captured Kabul in September and now hold two-thirds of the war-ravaged country.

Kunduz also abuts the northern Balkh province of which Mazar-i-Sharif is the capital.

The Taleban entered Mazar in late May after an ethnic Uzbek General Abdul Malik switched sides and allied with the Islamic militia following a mutiny he had staged against former powerful warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Gen. Dostum fled to Turkey and Gen. Malik later turned against the Taleban who were driven out of Mazar-i-Sharif in one of their worst reversals to-date.

A large Taleban force was trapped in Baghlan's Pul-i-Khumri district after the retreat from Mazar. They withdrew to Baghlan city last week.

Some sources suspect the Taleban in Baghlan might have moved into neighbouring Kunduz amid fighting in the area between the Islamic militia and the opposition forces of former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood.

The Taleban militia Tuesday rejected a proposed new opposition government to administer Northern Afghanistan as a creation of Iran, officials in Kabul said.

"We consider this government was made in a political university of Iran and imported to Afghanistan," Sher Mohammad Stanekzai, Taleban deputy foreign minister told AFP.

"It will not solve the problems of the nation and is not acceptable to the people," he added.

The anti-Taleban alliance made up of factions led by ex-President Burhanuddin Rabbani, ethnic Gen. Malik and Shiite leader Karim Khalili have invited expatriate Afghan "intellectuals, technocrats and dignified personalities" to join them in the formation of a new broad-based government.

But Mr. Stanekzai said there were "differences" among these factions regarding the type of government they proposed.

The central government proposed by Mr. Rabbani's Foreign Minister Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai was at variance with the federal version announced by Mr. Khalili's Hezb-i-Wahdat faction, he said.

However, Mr. Stanekzai reiterated the Taleban were still prepared for peace talks with the opposition alliance provided they "were serious" about negotiations.

In Tehran, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met Iranian President-elect Mohammad Khatami Tuesday for talks expected to focus on the situation in Afghanistan.

No details were immediately available from the closed-door talks between Mr. Sharif, who arrived in Tehran Monday for a two-day visit, and Mr. Khatami and other Iranian officials.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shahmshad Ahmad said in Islamabad Tuesday that Pakistan and Iran have decided to work together to promote intra-Afghan dialogue and influence rival groups to restore peace in Afghanistan.

At a meeting with outgoing Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani late Monday, Mr. Sharif said his country "is of the opinion that militarism was not a good solution" to the factional fighting in Afghanistan.

Tehran and Islamabad, major power brokers in Afghanistan, support rival factions in Afghanistan and relations, which have been historically cordial, has been strained over the issue.

## Japan enacts landmark law allowing organ transplants

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese Parliament enacted Tuesday a bill recognising brain death as the legal definition for the end of human life, paving the way for the nation's first organ transplants in 30 years.

The Lower House approved the bill by 323 votes to 144 after an overwhelming majority of Upper House members voted for the bill, officials said.

The revised bill, which amends a separate bill pro-

posed by a group of lawmakers led by former Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, a member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party who is also a physician, includes strict conditions after some Upper House members expressed reservations about the original bill.

Under the revised legislation, organs can be transplanted only when a person is examined and confirmed to be brain dead by two or

more doctors.

Donors have to give written consent to organ transplants before they die and relatives of the dead person also have to approve the procedures.

"It is undesirable that Japan should not value human organs," Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters after the bill was passed.

"Unless we have certain rules, criticism of Japan will occur in response to Japanese acquiring organs abroad," he

said, referring to the growing number of organ transplants by Japanese being treated at foreign hospitals.

In a rare departure from their standard practice, political parties let lawmakers decide themselves how to vote on the bill.

Brain death allows people whose hearts are still beating to be declared dead when their overall brain functions stop, a condition required for the transplant of certain organs such as hearts and livers.

## Suspicious greet Tung's local Hong Kong council changes

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's future leader Tung Chee-hwa has sparked fresh suspicions over China's plans for the territory by announcing changes to the lower tiers of government which critics see as a further rollback for democracy.

The move was followed Tuesday by the release of a survey confirming a continued decline in political confidence in Hong Kong just days before the territory's return to Chinese rule.

On Monday, Mr. Tung, who takes over as Hong Kong's chief executive on July 1, unveiled a system that will dilute democratic representation on second-tier government bodies through the appointment of a number of pro-China names.

Commentators welcomed the retention of all members of existing local councils and district boards but the Democratic Party, Hong Kong's most popular and vocal political group, saw the addition of pro-Beijing appointees as yet another attempt to roll back democracy in the dying days of British colonial rule.

"Mr. Tung has put the old story back. It is a very bad message to the whole world

that Hong Kong is going backward in terms of democracy," Democratic Party Vice-Chairman Yeung Sum told government radio in Hong Kong.

"China resumes sovereignty over Hong Kong under the so-called (policy) 'Hong Kong ruling Hong Kong' (but) Mr. Tung has added the appointed system to the two councils as well as the district boards," said Mr. Yeung. "It is very ironic."

The confidence survey released Tuesday was carried out by Baptist University of Hong Kong, which is monitoring local attitudes to the handover under its transition project.

"Political pessimism this time seems to have risen over the survey in February," political analyst Michael Degolyer of Baptist University told Hong Kong Radio.

The survey also underlines the division between economic and political confidence, with two-thirds of Hong Kong people confident about their economic future but uncertain about their political fate, Mr. Degolyer said.

The findings confirm a prevailing attitude of "doom and boom" in Hong

Kong, he said, with the stock market reaching new highs and red chips, or China-related stocks, roaring ahead on handover optimism while political confidence slides.

"Economic optimism has gone up, political pessimism has gone up. It's almost a kind of a schizophrenic attitude," he said.

Under Mr. Tung's changes, pro-Beijing names were handed the lion's share of 116 new appointed seats on urban and regional councils and district boards, the vast majority of whose existing members were elected under democratic reforms introduced in 1994 by departing Colonial Governor Chris Patten.

Nine new members will be appointed to the Urban Council, which runs municipal affairs in Hong Kong proper while 11 new appointments will be made to the Regional Council, which performs municipal government functions in the new territories.

Mr. Tung has also added another 96 appointed seats to Hong Kong's 18 district boards, which advise the government on issues in various districts around the territory.

## Long-sought 1960s radical nabbed in France

PHILADELPHIA (R) — A 16-year international manhunt for a 1960s-era counterculture leader convicted of murdering his girlfriend has ended with his arrest in France, the FBI said Monday.

Ira Einhorn, who fashioned a role for himself as a link between hippies and the establishment, was arrested Friday at the converted windmill in Southern France where he was living under an assumed name.

"He's now in custody in Bordeaux, France," Bob Reuter, FBI special agent in charge of the Philadelphia office, told a news conference.

Mr. Einhorn, now 57, jumped bail and fled Philadelphia in 1981, shortly before he was to go to trial for the 1977 murder of his girlfriend, Helen Maddux. Her mummified body had been found in 1979 in a steamer trunk at Mr. Einhorn's home. He had pleaded innocent to the killing, saying he had been framed.

Tried in absentia in 1993, Mr. Einhorn was convicted, and sentenced to a term of life in prison without parole. An appeal by his attorney was denied on the grounds Mr. Einhorn had forfeited any rights to appeal by his absence.

The authorities said Mr. Einhorn could be returned within 40 days under terms of a U.S.-French extradition treaty, but legal battles could drag out the process.

Mr. Einhorn's attorneys said Monday they would ask France and, if necessary, the European Court of Human Rights to deny extradition on the grounds that it was unfair to try him without his presence and subsequently deny an appeal.

## 20 detained after 9 killed in Karachi

KARACHI (R) — Police detained at least 20 people in the Pakistani port city of Karachi Tuesday following a day of violence in which nine people were killed.

"We have detained at least 20 people after the violence," a senior police official said, adding that it was hoped that questioning the detainees would lead to the actual killers. A strike closed shops and businesses in southern parts of Karachi Tuesday as angry residents mourned five activists of an ethnic party killed in a drive-by shooting the night before.

Police were on high alert ahead of afternoon funeral prayers expected to attract at least 10,000 mourners on the main M.A. Jinnah road outside the Karachi municipal corporation.

"We hope the strike will end after the funeral," the police officer said. "We have

taken strict security precautions."

Witnesses said paramilitary troops patrolled several areas in vans mounted with submachine guns. People stayed away from work and many of those on the streets wore black arm-bands.

Black flags were flying near the scene of Monday night's attack on an office of the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) in the Risala neighbourhood of District South.

Police said one of the 14 people wounded in the assault by gunmen in a yellow car had died overnight, bringing the death toll in that incident to five and the overall toll from violence in the southern port city to nine in the past 24 hours.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

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Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

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## Failing to get message

COMMENTING ON Palestinian youths' reaction to Israeli occupation and settlement policies, the Jerusalem Post on Tuesday wrote: "It is a bit mystifying why Palestinian youths would wish to play the role of cannon fodder in Arafat's game." Indeed, why would young Palestinians put their own tender life in danger in daily encounters with Israeli troops equipped with rifles that fire deadly rubber bullets and teargas cannisters?

This is a legitimate question. But our fellow editors at the Post seem to be at a loss of words, and thoughts, in constructing an equally legitimate answer. Or maybe they are simply oblivious to the real facts of the prevailing tragedy that the peace process has become.

Could it be because those young people are desperate because of their situation? Because they cannot lead a normal life like their Israeli peers do? Could it be because every time they have a hopeful glimpse of a brighter future their hopes are dashed by the policies of the right-wing government of Benjamin Netanyahu? Isn't it possible that those young people realise that Israeli settlements, bypass roads and confiscation of land and excessive use of their water are going to squeeze them in Bantustans that are devoid of any reasonable means of decent living?

The editors of the Post, the settlers and Israeli right-wingers in general can choose, as they did before 1987, to ignore the plight of the Palestinians and to moan about Palestinian "ignorance and ingratitude." But the Palestinian youths have genuine grievances that are, of course, in harmony with those of their leaders. Whether they are aware that violence can be used as a negotiating tactic is besides the point. What they see, feel and live with is daily Israeli violence, physical and structural, that manifest itself in many ways, not least of which is the bulldozing of their land for the construction of Israeli settlements and bypass roads. If the Israelis do not consider these actions as violence committed by a powerful state against a weak people, then that is their problem and their folly. The Palestinian youths' stone-throwing is only a symbol intended to tell the Israelis to go home and let them be. If the Israelis cannot get the message they, at least, should not be surprised if the angry shouts of Palestinian youths grow louder everyday.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm hailed the steadfastness and heroic acts of the Lebanese resistance in southern Lebanon, saying that the resistance men have transformed the Israeli-occupied region into another Vietnam that would sooner or later bring defeat to the Israelis. Taher Adwan said that the Hizbollah resistance movement has relayed a bright image of the Lebanese resistance and rekindled hope for the restoration of the occupied Lebanese territory through their heroic fight against the occupation forces. While Israeli forces carry out destruction of civilian centres in southern Lebanon and commit genocide against the local population, the resistance movement pursues determined fighting to rid the country of occupation and continue to plant mines in the way of the military vehicles, never losing hope of winning the battle, said the writer. He said that the Israeli forces, which succeeded in deterring Arab governments and Arab armies, have failed to deter the resistance movement in Lebanon despite the technological edge the Jewish state holds over the combined forces of the Arab World. The movement's resistance actions, which started after the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, has proved that it does not fear the formidable Israeli war machine and is determined to liberate the occupied lands.

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily said that the U.S. House of Representatives' decision to consider Jerusalem as the united capital of Israel was taken with the American lawmakers and administration officials realising too well that the Arab Nation is in disarray and that nothing can be done to deter such moves hostile to the Arab interests. Fahed Fanek said that it is regrettable to see the Arab countries unable to undertake a meaningful action against the U.S. or Israel for their continued enmity to the Arab causes and it is sad to see the Arabs suffering themselves with verbal condemnation of the U.S. moves. The writer said the Arabs should realise that the U.S. cares only about its own oil interests in the Arab region and that only when they are in a position to take action against those interests will Washington change its policies towards them. He said what the Arabs should do is to liberate their oil wealth from American hegemony, end the embargo on Iraq and unite their forces in defence of their collective national interests.

## Washington Watch

# E pluribus unum — will it be an American reality in the 21st century?

By Dr. James J. Zogby

THE LATIN expression "e pluribus unum" appears on the "great seal of the United States" and on most U.S. currency. It means "out of many, one" and defines the vision of what America intends to be — a unified nation of immigrants from all over the world.

This is the promise and power of the American ideal and there are countless stories that can be told about how this promise has become a reality for Americans of every race, ethnic group and religion.

And yet, despite the gains that have been made, there remain serious challenges in the continuing effort to bridge racial and ethnic differences and make Americans truly "one nation."

Economic data demonstrates clearly that gaps exist between races in employment and income. Statistics on education and treatment by the criminal justice system show the same disparities.

Recent polls show both the progress that has been made and the challenges that remain. On the one hand, attitudes of white America towards black America have changed significantly and positively in the past thirty years. Three decades ago, for example, only 4 per cent of white America indicated acceptance of interracial marriages. Today, over 60 per cent show acceptance. In 1969, only 63 per cent of the whites stated that they would vote for a black candidate; today that number has risen to 91 per cent. Both whites and blacks indicate that they feel real progress has been made in the quality of their lives, and in relations between the races.

Along with signs of progress, however, the polls also show serious gaps remaining between the races. Blacks do not believe that the law-enforcement system has been fair and unbiased. And black Americans, in large numbers, still point to real instances of discrimination in employment, housing and economic opportunity.

It is especially worrisome that signs of this racial divide are greatest in U.S. cities and on some major college campuses.

The effort to bridge the gap between the races is but one aspect of the effort to build a unified America. The presence of large numbers of Hispanics and Native Americans who have become Americans because their lands were added to the country by the 19th century conquests, coupled with substantial increases in immigration from Central and South America, Asia and Africa, also contributes to the growing complexity of the American community.

It is estimated that given the rapid increases in Hispanic and Asian populations in California (the U.S.' largest state), in less than two decades the majority of Californians will be Asians and Hispanics. Whites will only be slightly more than one third of California's population. And that pattern will be repeated with some variations in many other states and major U.S. cities.

The pressures created by continuing racial divisions and the growing ethnic and racial diversity of America has created a hostile response from some quarters. While some militant racist and anti-foreign far-right groups have surfaced, the greater danger is coming from the mainstream right. Anti-immigrant legislation and efforts to ban all programmes designed to aid blacks and recent immigrants have actually passed in some states and have even made headway at the national level.

It is the persistent gap between blacks and whites, the continuing demographic changes that are reshaping the very face of America and the threat to American unity, posed by the racism and nativism of the right-wing, that prompted President Clinton to act last week.

The president has announced a year-long initiative on race that has three essential components:

— a national dialogue which will engage Americans across the country;

— a national study of the problems that currently exist and those that may develop in the next century; and

— a national programme of actions and policies that will promote and strengthen American unity.

According to Bill Clinton, the initiative will include five general goals:

1. To articulate the president's vision of racial reconciliation and a just, unified America;

2. To teach the nation the facts surrounding the issue of race;

3. To promote a constructive dialogue to confront and work through the difficult and controversial issues surrounding race;

4. To recruit and encourage leadership at all levels to help bridge racial divides;

5. To find, develop and implement solutions in critical areas such as education, economic opportunity, housing, health care, crime and the administration of justice — for individuals, communities, corporations and government at all levels.

Overcoming the racial divide and celebrating American diversity has long been a commitment of this president. These themes were a cornerstone of his 1992 presidential campaign and of his decision to appoint an ethnically and racially diverse cabinet that "looked like America." The president sees diversity as part of the great strength of America. Last month, speaking at a college graduation, he said: "Our diversity is our greatest strength in the world of today and tomorrow."

But to guarantee this strength we must work, he said, to insure that diversity "brings us together rather than drives us apart."

Developing this theme earlier this year, the president noted: "In the end, more than anything else, our world leadership grows out of the power of our example here at home, out of our ability to remain strong as one America... We are the world's most diverse democracy, and the world looks to us to show that it is possible to live and advance together across those kinds of differences... building one America is our most important mission... money cannot buy it. Power cannot compel it. Technology cannot create it. It can only come from the human spirit."

At stake then in this national effort to insure American unity is the future not only of a stable and secure country but the ability of America to continue to provide leadership in the world. Last week, I was invited to join the president and vice president in a discussion at the White House. A small group of representatives from diverse ethnic and racial communities spent over two hours at the White House residence hearing the president describe his initiatives and sharing our views with him.

He made it clear to us that he felt that this issue was the most important question facing America today. He shared with us the enormous pain he has felt when witnessing countries and regions of the world torn apart by ethnic or racial strife. That is why he has been so troubled by the Oklahoma City bombing, by instances of anti-immigrant violence and by the burning of black churches in the South. We must, he said, as a nation, resolve to come together. At stake is whether or not American unity will be preserved into the next century.

I had the opportunity to give the president an Arab American view of this issue and the problems experienced by our community in recent years. Specifically, I called his attention to:

— the negative role played by Hollywood and the creators of popular culture who are in large measure responsible for the propagation of negative stereotypes;

— the instances of anti-Arab and anti-Muslim violence that have occurred in times of national crisis;

— the crisis that exists in inner cities where Arab American grocers' lives are at risk — with dozens killed each year; and

— the general fear that Arab Americans share with other new immigrant groups as we see the rise of anti-immigrant sentiment.

Both the president and his staff responded positively to the issues and concerns I raised. It is clear that Arab Americans will be involved and play a role in this important national dialogue.

The president's initiative is a significant and promising one. It represents only the third time that the issues of race and ethnicity have been placed prominently on the national agenda. Abraham Lincoln confronted the question during the Civil War and Lyndon Johnson dealt with this issue in response to the riots that had engulfed most U.S. cities in the 1960s.

What is significant is that President Clinton is challenging the nation to confront the issue of race in the absence of a crisis, but in an effort to avert such a crisis. In an editorial previewing the president's plan, the Christian Science Monitor commented: "Nothing is more worthy of a national leader's time and effort than harmony among people. Success in this realm could give President Clinton a legacy over-reaching his second-term sea of troubles."

It is a noble effort which must be supported because only good can come from this initiative to strengthen the vision of "e pluribus unum" and make it a reality in the 21st century.

## With real politics in Iran, it is time for real diplomacy

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — I used to believe that there were two Islamic fundamentalist countries that could resist the tug and pull of globalisation. One was Iran, because it had oil, and the other was Sudan, because it had nothing.

Wrong, at least about Iran. Consider its latest election.

The fact that Iranians sifted through their presidential candidates, identified Mohammad Khatami as the one relative moderate, and then voted for him in overwhelming numbers (70 per cent) is remarkable. It says two things.

One is how much the public — urban and rural, rich and poor, men and women — had come to resent the rank incompetence, corruption and suffocating repression of hardline Islamic leaders. The other is that the allure and pressures of globalisation are still acting upon Iran, even in its isolation.

Merchants know that their country's semi-quarantine is limiting their opportunities. Youth clearly understand that it is limiting their horizons.

The Voice of America has a Persian-language call-in show, in which Iranians from all over their country telephone Washington just to chat about their problems. They are knocking on the world's door. They want to be part of

the most profound global trends, from open trade to civil society to cultural experimentation. And they demonstrated it by electing the first Iranian presidential candidate with his own Web site ([www.khatami.com](http://www.khatami.com)).

Here is another sign of how globalisation — the intertwining of trade, finance and information systems — creates a powerful network of economic rules, pressures and opportunities that countries have to open themselves to.

Over time, that network will punish any country that overindulges either its body or its soul. For instance, France is overindulging its body, by trying to maintain a cushy lifestyle without the resources to sustain it. Iran can be said to be overindulging its soul.

That doesn't mean that Iranians want to return to the sterile, anti-Islamic imitation of the West that the shah offered. But Mr. Khatami was elected, in part, because Iranians sensed that he is not afraid of striking a new balance. Indeed, he has said that Iran can "learn" from the West, which has "a superb civilisation" that has influenced all parts of the world.

He may discover when he tries to act on his mandate that the Iranian Islamic system is much like the old Soviet system — everything is connected to everything else, and

once you try to reform it, you expose all of its contradictions.

Iran cannot modernise its economy without opening more to Western business practices and contacts. If it opens up on that scale, how does it let Dale Carnegie in and keep Madonna out?

This election demonstrates that Iran's leadership is under some real pressure from within. The Clinton team is right to insist that Iran stop supporting terrorism, building nuclear weapons and opposing Mideast peace. The question now is: Is Washington now likely to accelerate change by laying down demands and isolating Iran until it meets them in full, or by laying down demands and responding to any Iranian gestures, overtures or positive statements?

I think it is the latter, because there is now a real partner inside Iran — that 70 per cent — who not only share the American interest in an Iran that is better balanced, but are trying to do something about it.

If the West remains standoffish, it gives more leverage to the most dangerous Iranian leaders, who want to keep Iran isolated from the West.

There is real politics going on in Iran today, and where there is real politics there can also be real diplomacy.

The New York Times

## LETTERS

### No irking parties

To the Editor:

I WRITE this letter in response to Ali Kassay's article "Thirteen elephants for 13 children" (Jordan Times, June 11, 1997). The letter is meant to clarify some factual information that the writer has clearly missed or has not been informed of.

He writes: "a group of thirteen families ganged up and decided to hijack the occasion (graduation party). They conspired in secret from the school's faculty and other parents of graduates, then they flung upon the innocent and unsuspecting an invitation to a lavish diversissement to which their own friends and relations were invited by the hundreds, but from which the parents of other graduating children were barred."

I should like the writer aware of the fact that members of the school's administration knew about this event since its very formulation. That the graduating class was informed of this event months prior to its occurrence by one of the involved graduates who made it public? That, for the past four years, selected parents of graduates have put together a private social function the night of their children's graduation, and that, for this very reason, such an occasion had many precedents and did not come as a surprise? There obviously is no issue of secrecy or mischievous plotting here.

And if so, then I also need to ask the writer the question: why didn't anyone from the graduating class take the initiative to call upon the members of their class to group and make decisions as to how this year's graduation party would take place and as to who would participate in organising it? The simple fact of the matter is that no one really paid much attention to this important social occasion — no one really wanted to put forth any effort. Therefore, can I, the son of one of the parents who participated in the making of this private ceremony, be blamed for such nonchalance on the part of my fellow classmates?

But let me take this a little further: since we know that graduation is an official school formality, then it is only logical to assume that the graduation party should also figure on the school's list of official functions. That, in turn, would eliminate any aspect of privacy and exclusion. The school would obviously extend invitations to all the parents of the graduating seniors as a priority, and then decide on the numbers of friends and relatives that each graduate could invite.

I hope it now makes sense why such an important and formal social occasion was privatised. Maybe changes will occur in the future — but irrespective of that, I think it is important to remember that no one likes to throw a party that will create tensions that are both trivial and unnecessary between classmates, especially at such a significant time of the year.

Tarek Z. Jallad,  
Amman.

## Good ideas revisited

By Ali Kassay

IN THE days long gone, when the body lent itself with eagerness to the rigours of outdoors sports, I used to be keen on going out with a shotgun and doing the local fauna a bit of no good. So one day, in conversation with a cousin of mine who shared this interest, we stumbled upon a clever idea.

We noticed that four-wheel-drive cars belonging to the government are sold at the scrap heap at the end of their useful life, for paltry sums. In those days, a hundred dinars was about the size of it. So we thought of buying three of them, cannibalising these carcasses into one functional car, and sending the other two to the great garage in the sky.

We estimated that, in addition to the initial investment of three hundred dinars, we may need to buy new parts for around a thousand dinars, and there would be an additional outlay of around five hundred for labour, so we could put together a functional car for our outdoors mucking about for less than two thousand.

So far this seems like the normal sort of thing that gets done everyday in many countries all over the world. In fact, during my student days in the land of the wicked and exploitative imperialists, some of my contemporaries financed their education by restoring old cars in their spare time and selling them for profit.

So one would wonder why our idea did not develop beyond the point of conceptualisation. Well, it gets rather complicated. You see, government cars are exempted from customs and other taxes. To build a new car from their decrepit remains would cost less than two thousand dinars, but to put this product on the road one would have to pay taxes to the government at a rate of 250 per cent of the price of a new car of the same make. This would have augmented our investment by about fifty thousand dinars.

This, and many similar experiences, persuaded us that it is not a good idea to have a good idea in our fair and bounteous country. But you cannot expect an old head on young shoulders. There is always a young optimist who will believe that he can make a difference through serious hard work, which seldom amounts to more than the triumph of hope over experience.

In this case, a young Jordanian entrepreneur thought of using the system to his advantage. He set off to design and assemble a four-wheel-drive car which, being locally produced, would be exempted from the exorbitant customs duties, and therefore competitive. That way he thought he could provide best value-for-money motor car in the Jordanian market.

But our bureaucracy is cleverer than that. It did not gain its reputation for making local and foreign investors turn tail and run in the general direction of away if it were to be stymied by such cheap tricks. Administrators are made of sterner stuff. By the time our friend had produced his first prototype, the government moved in, quick as a flash, to reduce customs duties on this class of vehicle to forty-something per cent, and simultaneously to raise the value added tax to nearly 150 per cent, which meant that this car, produced at around twenty thousand dinars, would have to sell for over fifty thousand dinars, the same as an imported vehicle. That should teach him.



## U.S. launches long-term fund...

(Continued from page 1)

he added, "I will also be discussing this plan with other leaders at [the G-8] summit in Denver next week, encouraging them to seek creative ways to meet the emerging needs in the Middle East. I look forward to meeting Crown Prince on June 18 to discuss this initiative as well as other developments in the region."

The Crown Prince, whose meeting with the president was rescheduled from Tuesday to Wednesday, told journalists just before lunch with Mrs. Albright at the State Department that he takes the opportunity of his meeting with the secretary of state "to affirm on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein, the Jordanian government and people, our appreciation of putting words into deeds. It is a rare opportunity for me, and I would like to go back to 1993 to say that the vision of a stable Middle East, of a trade hub in the north of the Red Sea, of developing Jordanian participation in a context which is acceptable to both our countries — peace, democracy, as well as human dignity and security in terms of human aspirations."

"May I thank you, secretary of state, for your announcement of the creation of this all-important fund for stability and prosperity," the Crown Prince added, "I'd like to say that it's not the first occasion that we have addressed peace-building here in Washington. I do want to

express, on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein, our deepest appreciation for the efforts, not only of the president personally, but of the White House, of the State Department and, indeed, of the various branches of the administration. In particular, our thanks go to the American Congress for the interaction with Jordan's needs at this time."

"We believe in doing good things in bad times," the Crown Prince said. "We believe, effectively, that we are graduating gradually from the aid club, in the sense of activating our bilateral investment treaty, which I hope is going to be one of the focus issues of our discussions. And I would like to say that in terms of the developments in the region, we focus on the all-important development of the Jordan Rift Valley. In that sense, may I share your words of appreciation for the role of President Mubarak and of Egypt, not only in this gesture, but of effectively accepting to share with Jordan the dividends of peace, and also in terms of the ongoing efforts in building peace."

Secretary Albright said: "What we have done here is create this fund. We hope very much that the fund itself will increase in size. We will be consulting with Congress and we will also be consulting with other countries so that they can make some additional contributions to this fund. Our support of Jordan economically and in every other way has been ongoing and will continue to be so,

because we value the role that Jordan plays, that the King himself plays, that His Royal Highness plays. We are very, very close friends and will work together on these issues."

To this, Prince Hassan replied: "The difference here is that the concept of Camp David was a concept where funding was available, built in to the context of the three tiers. I'd like to say that in this context, it has been a matter of years of discussion and engagement with the White House, with the administration and Congress that has made very clear that as a result of the signing of the treaty, we are now picking up on this — your peace-building that means so much."

The Crown Prince did not comment on the controversy that has arisen over drawing the \$100 million from the U.S. assistance to both Egypt and Israel, having heard from Vice-President Al Gore Monday that the aid package to Jordan was "American money — an American concern." But it was evident from the president's and the secretary of state's statements yesterday that the U.S. sought to play down any differences, particularly with Israel, over the aid plan.

"The fund we are creating today will draw its resources from re-direction of a small percentage of the economic support funds supplied to Israel and Egypt," Mr. Clinton said. "Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Mubarak both recognise the strategic importance of

supporting economic growth in the region. They share any conviction that it is extremely important for the people of the Middle East to see tangible benefits when they turn from conflict to cooperation."

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told journalists yesterday that this would be the last time the administration took from Egypt's and Israel's assistance funds to aid Jordan. "For next year and after, we pledge, as an administration, similar amounts to Jordan," he said. "But we will have to take it to Congress as a separate package. We will not take more money from Egypt and Israel (for this purpose)."

Israel currently gets about \$3 billion from the U.S. annually and Egypt gets \$2.2 billion.

The controversy arose when Israeli officials portrayed the aid transfer to Jordan as a gift from Israel. "Since Israel gets its aid in one lump sum, it will have to literally write a \$50 million cheque to the U.S. to support President Clinton's Jordan aid plan," the Washington Post wrote yesterday. "This blow is softened," an administration official was quoted as saying, "by the fact that U.S. military aid to Israel has been rising this year because of the administration's assistance with an anti-missile programme." Egypt gets its aid in instalments, which will be trimmed to divert money to Jordan, the Washington Post said.

Mr. Burns explained that as a result of the adminis-

tration's consultations with the Congress over the \$100 million aid package, he expects that there will be soon an endorsement of the proposal and the funds will be shortly available to Jordan. Sources expect this to happen by next month. The U.S. military and economic assistance for this year is around \$100 million. Jordan's imports from the U.S. are expected to reach \$500 million, up from around \$400 million last year.

Economic relations between the two countries were in fact discussed yesterday at a meeting between the Crown Prince and Secretary of Commerce William Daley.

A senior Jordanian official told the Jordan Times that the talks focused on four main issues:

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Economic Summit scheduled to be held in Qatar in November, Jordan's application to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO), giving Jordanian industrial products preferred treatment upon exporting to the U.S. and privatisation of state-owned companies in Jordan.

After his lunch with the secretary of state, the Crown Prince went to Capitol Hill, where he met with congressional leaders and Arab-American lawmakers. In the evening he was scheduled to have meetings with Arab ambassadors in Washington and the Arab press corps.

## Emir says Qatar, Bahrain can unite if people want

DOHA (AP) — Qatar and Bahrain, two Gulf states embroiled in a long-standing territorial dispute, can unite if their citizens so desire, Qatar's emir said in remarks published Tuesday.

But Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani said such a wish would have to come through a referendum in each country. The Peninsula newspaper reported. Such a vote would be remarkable in the Gulf, which is made up of monarchies with few democratic institutions.

He gave no hint at whether he would encour-

age the referendum. "If unity comes from the people and has the blessing of the leaders in both countries, then, I think, we will be on the right track," the English-language daily quoted the emir as saying.

Last month, Bahrain's crown prince called for uniting his country with neighbouring Qatar, a move he hoped would end the territorial dispute that has cast a shadow over relations in the Gulf. The emir's remarks, made during a trip last week to the United States, were Qatar's first response to the idea.

Bahrain and Qatar are tiny Gulf states with close ties to the United States and western Europe.

But the two have been feuding since the mid-1980s over the Hawar islands in the Gulf, water boundaries and the Zubara land strip in Qatar where Bahrain's royal family lived 200 years ago.

A committee of four GCC states had been set up to diffuse tension between the two countries, and in March, the two countries agreed to open embassies for the first time in each other's capital.

## Qatari emir outlines differences with United States over Iraq

DOHA (AFP) — The emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, Tuesday outlined his country's differences with the United States over Iraq, and reiterated a call for a softer line on Iran.

"We have a different point of view on Iraq," said Sheikh Hamad, in an interview carried by the Qatari press.

The emir said his country believed Iraq should conform to U.N. resolutions imposed on the country in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war, but that he was concerned by the "suffering endured by the Iraqi people because of a lack of food and medicines."

"The Iraqi people have blood links with the peoples of the other Arab countries in the Gulf," he added.

Iraq has been subject to U.N. trade sanctions since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990 which can only be lifted once the U.N. is satisfied Baghdad has completely destroyed its capacity to manufacture weapons of mass destruction.

Sheikh Hamad also repeated calls made in several interviews within the past week for a softer U.S. line on Iran following the victory of moderate cleric Mohammad Khatami in last month's Iranian presidential elections.

"Qatar is trying to have good relations with Iran, which is a neighbouring country," he said, calling on the United States "to consider in a positive light the latest developments in Iran."

In an interview with the Cable News Network, aired Monday, Sheikh Hamad said he believed a "clash between the United States and Iran could happen at any time."

The emir's call has coincided with a visit to the Gulf by U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen, who has voiced scepticism over the prospects of a moderate shift in Tehran and has stressed the importance of containing both Iran and Iraq.

Sheikh Hamad also confirmed that his country would be hosting the fourth Middle East and North Africa economic conference later this year and that Israel would be invited.

Syria has been leading Arab demands for a boycott of the conference to protest against Israeli peace process policy.

"All the parties" will be invited, said Sheikh Hamad, adding that "the previous conferences were held on the basis of an Israeli invitation."

## Israel denies thwarting U.N. settlement mission

(Continued from page 1)

an April 25 resolution, demanded Israel halt construction on a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem and called for an end to "illegal Israeli activities" in the occupied territories.

"It is blatant interference in our domestic affairs. This

is a double-standard. The standard used here is never used against any other nation," Mr. Bar-Ilan told Reuters.

Adopted by a 143-3 vote in an emergency session of the General Assembly, the resolution also calls on Mr. Annan to monitor the situation and submit a report within two months.

The U.N. said Israel demanded any discussions it's envoy had with officials outside the Israeli government, such as Palestinians, not be included in his report.

U.N. sources also said Israel did not want the envoy to mention the General Assembly resolution in talks with Israeli officials.

"We did make some good-faith suggestions," Mr. Palmor said. "In the end we couldn't agree with the Secretary General. They may view these as restrictions."

He declined to say what suggestions Israel made. A U.N. spokesman said the U.N. will make its report without visiting the area.

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## JPA disunity may have caused it leadership role

(Continued from page 12)

favoured Mr. Sherif's stand, although two council members told the Jordan Times that four of the board's nine members retracted their resignations after learning that the other five would do so.

Other considerations seem to have prompted members' reconsideration. "We felt (the five) were pressured," he said, "and we wanted to continue presenting the most unified stand that we could."

At the same time, said an Al Ra'i writer, the behaviour of the weekly papers did not encourage the dailies to stand behind them.

In fact, the majority of outcry against the press and publications law came mainly from journalists at weekly newspapers, opposition parties and other professional associations. The dailies' journalists remained mostly silent.

"The weeklies were, to an extent, a burden on journalists," the writer said. "They dealt with issues that affected (the established dailies') credibility, and they looked for slogans and what appealed to the public eye. Their headlines weren't always accurate."

Mr. Sherif, whose role in

the entire affair has been controversial, asserted that the weeklies insisted on overstepping their bounds, even after the council "gathered chief editors of the weeklies and 'begged' them to 'take it easy'."

"We believe that they should pursue the news and investigative reports that they do, but in a credible and civilised way," said Mr. Sherif.

However, the JPA has rarely censured its members, save for in exceptional cases, in spite of numerous complaints from various parties, including journalists themselves, over past years.

During an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Sherif fired that "The JPA believes in diversity. We weren't with the practices of the weeklies when they spoke negatively of national unity — this affects the very fabric of our society. But the weeklies did raise the ceiling of freedom of speech and they seized every opportunity to expose corruption and discuss gaps in our system of governance."

"But," he said, "we will never ask our colleagues to abide by a certain platform of democracy."

Nidal Mansour, an editor at Al Hadath weekly newspa-

per, said among all journalists, the points of agreement within the JPA are three: a temporary law regulating journalism or journalists should not be issued without the consent of parliament or without consultation with journalists; the new law is a regression in terms of freedom of expression and press from the 1993 law; and the weeklies, admittedly, did make "some mistakes."

The point, contended Ms. Faraj, is that the journalistic body "is ill and needs a cure — but who do we want to offer the cure? The government or the JPA?"

"The association hasn't played its role in making sure that credibility exists in our profession," she said. "So the government has interfered and given us their own recipe."

With the JPA's ethical and regulatory functions usurped by a restrictive press law, and its position as a public freedoms defender filled by other entities, it suggests, for the umpteenth time in the organisation's history, that restructuring may be necessary to restore the credibility of the organisation and the profession.

"At the moment," said Fuad Hussein, a JPA council mem-

ber and staff writer from Al Arab Al Yawm Arabic daily, "[JPA officials] can't take any serious decisions in our council due to its structure. We are basically five against five."

"What we have seen from this incident is that the JPA in its current form, serves no purpose," said a second Al Ra'i journalist. "Members have no social or medical security, no funds for housing. We don't even have a ping-pong table, and now we see that it cannot even defend the rights of journalists."

The only way to rectify this, said Ms. Faraj, is to change the JPA's elected representatives.

"Our council must be open for anyone who can prove his worth to the rest of the profession," she said. The issue of the Press Law, all agree, is the last chance for the JPA to assert its credibility as a professional association.

"[No journalist] believes in going backwards," said Ms. Faraj. "The rights we have been given are already ours, and cannot be taken away. Therefore, the JPA will have to monitor how the law is implemented — this is its last chance to rectify its image."

## Women military recruits...

(Continued from page 1)

Aysha said the Directorate for Women's Affairs is currently working to set an effective career planning for future recruits.

"Because of the cultural sensitivities that many of our women have about being in the close proximity to a male instructor," the directorate will recruit next year a number of female instructors.

Noting that women in the Jordanian military have always received the same salaries as their male colleagues in the same ranks, Princess Aysha also stressed

that in 1995 the maternity leave amendments for military women was changed from 40 days to 90 days. She also noted that in 1996 female employees of the Armed Forces gained equal rights to housing, and added that "this year we are conducting a study designed to allow equal rights to full medical coverage for family members of military women."

Princess Aysha was delivering a lecture at the United Nations University (UNU)/International Leadership Academy (ILA), in the framework of the first international leadership pro-

gramme in the world, currently being held in Amman.


Before the distinguished audience of emerging leaders from 65 countries convened here for the one-month programme, Princess Aysha said that, though 70 per cent of Jordanian military women are currently working in the medical services, "within the end of the year we hope to be able to narrow down a list of new roles" that women can undertake. Among the army departments which could be opened to women in the next decade, Lt. Col. Aysha mentioned the military intelligence and the military police.

## Jordan to hand over W. Bank ...

(Continued from page 1)

between the contracting firms and engineering offices.


The Palestinians promised to do every possible effort to overcome difficulties which might impede work on the reconstruction of the King Hussein Bridge, which will be financed by the Japanese government. The Palestinian delegation led by Deifallah Al Akhras, under-secretary of the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works, toured a number of public works and housing projects in Jordan during its four-day visit to Jordan.



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## Jordan, World Bank begin talks Saturday on \$32 million loan to improve tourism infrastructure

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new round of negotiations between Jordan and the World Bank will start next week to secure a \$62 million loan to Jordan to be used in improving tourism infrastructure in the Kingdom as well as financing some of the social security net projects.

The total cost of these projects amounts to \$44 million. The remaining \$12 million will be paid by Jordan. The projects also include environment projects in Wadi Mousa, Karak

and Jerash.

According to the ministry's plan, \$27.4 million will be allocated to developing services in Petra, \$9.2 million for tourism projects in Wadi Rum, \$5.2 million for projects in Karak and Jerash and \$2.2 million for supporting other tourism sector projects.

Tourism is the major foreign currency earner for the Kingdom. Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities figures indicate that in 1996 the Kingdom earned around \$770 million from 1.1 million tourists that visited the Kingdom.

Mrs. Khalaf told the Jordan Times that other negotiations will be held in Washington to secure a \$30 million loan to the Kingdom to finance part of the social security net projects in Jordan. The total spending is expected to reach \$400 million.

The minister revealed

that the Kingdom has secured a "primary approval" from the World Bank for the second loan but added that the "final approval should come from the bank's board of directors."

The social security net projects are aimed at creating new jobs to reduce the unemployment rate and finance projects to eradicate poverty in the Kingdom, where poverty and unemployment range between 18-20 and between 14-15 per cent of the total population respectively.

Meanwhile, Arabic newspapers quoted Mrs. Khalaf as saying that the government will reduce the maximum customs rate of many items to 30 per cent. They added that for some items, like cars, a value added tax will replace the reduction in customs which will be implemented as of mid 1998.

## Egypt, Qatar line up to supply gas to Turkey

DUBAI (AFP) — Egypt and Qatar are lining up to supply gas to energy-thirsty Turkey over the coming decade, international oil firms have said.

"Turkey is interested in buying gas from Egypt. What we need now is a sale and purchase agreement," Giacomo Luciani, assistant general director of the Italian group ENI told AFP.

ENI's affiliate AGIP and the U.S. company Amoco have made major gas discoveries off the coast of northern Egypt and are looking for nearby export markets, through a planned offshore pipeline.

The cost of the pipeline to Turkey would be \$1.2 billion.

In November 1996, Egypt signed an agreement in principle to sell 10 billion cubic metres (350 billion cubic feet) of gas a year to Turkey, starting in late 1999 or early 2000, but Amoco and AGIP are looking for firm orders.

"Talks are also under way for sales to Israel and Jordan, and we have also made contacts with Lebanon and Syria," Mr. Luciani said, on the sidelines of a Middle East pipeline congress in Dubai.

He said a rival project promoted by the U.S. company Enron to supply Jordan with liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar would be "less economical" than pipeline supplies from Egypt.

Qatar is also trying to sell one billion cubic metres (35 billion cubic feet) a year of LNG to Turkey, another oil executive said.

"We are discussing the price, I think Turkey will sign an agreement" to purchase gas from Qatar, said the executive of a foreign company taking part with the Qatari government in the Rasgas gas liquefaction plant.

## Netanyahu announces liberation of foreign currency restrictions

TEL AVIV (AP) — Accelerating efforts to spur economic growth, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that he would lift nearly all restrictions on foreign currency with the next year.

Mr. Netanyahu made his announcement after an all-night meeting with Finance Minister Dan Meridor and the governor of the Bank of Israel, Jacob Frenkel.

"We have agreed on a series of steps," Mr. Netanyahu told Israel Radio Tuesday. "We are going to make a tremendous revolution to allow more freedom in the area of foreign currency that has never been known before in Israel."

Israel Radio said the decision meant that within a year, restrictions would be lifted on purchases of foreign currency and Israelis would be allowed

to invest and open bank accounts abroad.

Despite the agreement on liberalising the foreign currency market, Mr. Netanyahu still must bridge a disagreement between Dr. Frenkel and Mr. Meridor on a Bank of Israel proposal to widen the trading band for the Israeli shekel.

Dr. Frenkel wants to widen the current 14 per cent trading range to counter a foreign currency surplus of \$20 billion, the daily Maariv said.

Mr. Meridor has argued that expanding the trading band will further slow the economy and increase unemployment.

Israeli experts have warned that the elimination of foreign currency controls might lead in time to a currency flight and a collapse of the shekel.

They point to Israel's experiment with liberalisation in the

late 1970s, when the sudden elimination of currency controls led to a currency collapse and helped spark years of hyperinflation.

Proponents argue that Israel's economy today — with a per capita income of \$17,000 — is strong enough to allow its currency to compete globally.

However, Israel's economy is slowing down after several years in which the standard of living shot up as a result of peacemaking, immigration and reforms.

Scaling down expectations, the finance ministry believes the economy will grow only 2.5 per cent to three per cent this year. With the population expected to increase by more than two per cent, that would amount to zero per capita growth.

In an attempt to bring the budget deficit closer to the target of 2.8 per cent of the gross domestic product, Mr. Netanyahu also said he would further cut the 1997 budget.

### CHIROPRACTIC Medicine

DR. SUHAIR AL DAUDI

Dr. in Chiropractic I.C.A., C.C.A., A.C.A.  
American Board in Chiropractic.

Member of International Chiropractor Association

Clinic: ZIAD ORTH. & SPINAL CENTER

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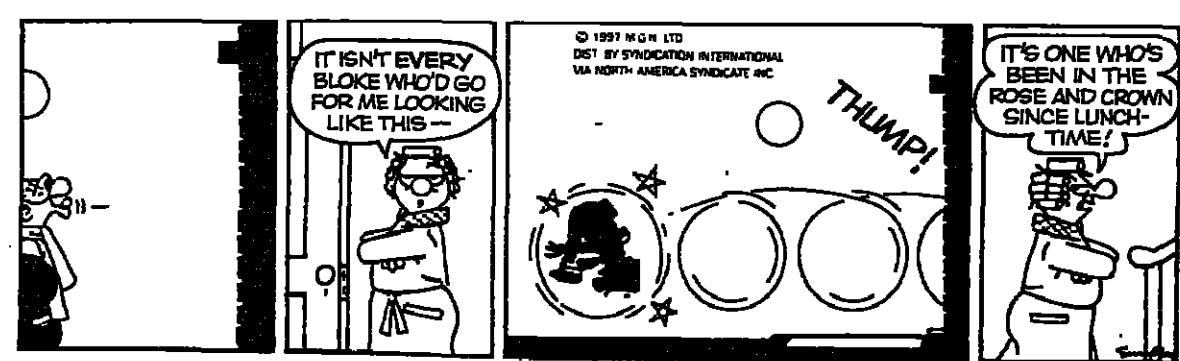
PLACE: KASHMIR/ARIEELAH RESTAURANT.  
DATE: WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY (18-19) JUNE.  
TIME: 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM ONLY

FOR MORE INFORMATION TEL 659520

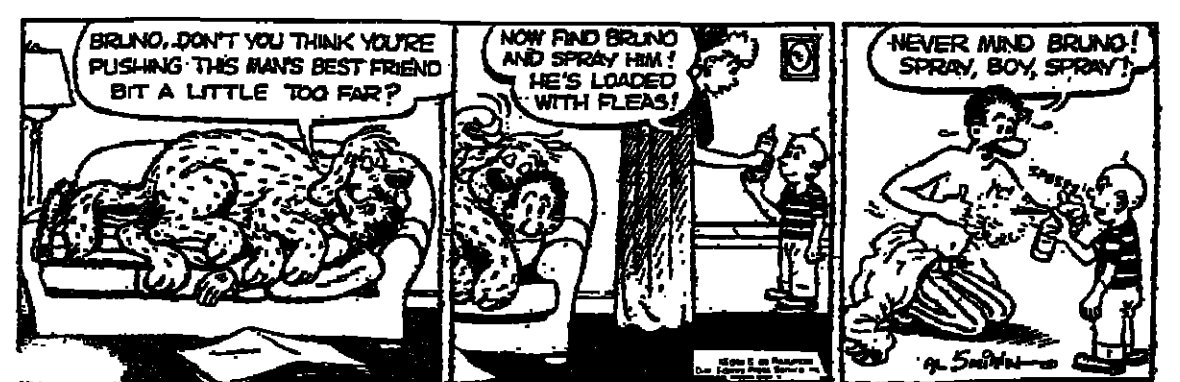
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



REUTERS

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### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF	Other
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7360	0.6118	144.50	115.05	1.3628	1706.00	1.9360	5.6580
DE Mark	0.5754	1.0000	0.3537	93.33	68.19	0.7952	981.02	1.1248	3.7574
GB Sterling	1.6345	2.8395	1.0000	167.75	2.2604	2.7846	3.1964	9.5912	
CH Franc	0.6820	1.2619	0.4230	76.60	0.8564	1179.81	135.13	4.0581	
JP Yen	0.0087	1.5083	0.5312	1.0000	1.2010	14.82	168.78	5.0980	
CA Dollar	0.7231	1.2563	0.4421	1.0445	1.0000	1.233.18	1.4132	4.2417	
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0183	0.3584	0.0847	1464.78	0.8103	11.45	1.4382	
NL Guilder	0.5115	0.8885	0.3127	73.90	58.81	0.7070	872.19	3.0000	
FR Franc	0.1704	0.2981	0.1042	24.6209	19.59	0.2356	33.31	33.3100	

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JO	IS	SA	QA	KU	AE	LB	EG
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7503	0.3770	3.6398	0.3025	3.6728	1536.00	3.3850
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2970	0.5324	5.1410	0.4273	5.1877	2169.49	4.7611
GB Sterling	0.2666	0.1888	0.1005	0.97	0.8007	0.98	409.57	0.9026	
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8762	9.9486	0.98	0.8025	0.94	4074.70	1.9797	
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304	0.8831	1.01	422.00	0.9300	
Kuwait Dinar	3.3057	2.3404	12.3973	1.2481	1.203	12.14	5077.32	0.9300	
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211	1.0228	0.9910	0.8824	418.20	0.9216	
Lebanese 1000	0.65	0.4609	2.4416	0.2454	2.3697	0.1969	2.3912	2.2038	
Egyptian	0.2954	0.2092	1.1079	0.1114	1.0753	0.0694	1.0851	453.77	

Energy		
Oil	Barrel	Price
Brent	17.20	17.20
M. Texa	18.90	18.90
Bonny	16.35	17.20
Dubai	17.18	17.20
UL Gas	187.00	0.00

Mid-East Currencies				
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4637	0.16313	0.38596
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.47348	0.16657	0.3937
KW Dinar	3.3057	5.74713	2.02224	4.78011
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.61255	1.62311	3.83583
CY Pound	1.2998	3.3538	1.1802	2.7863

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	341.1	341.8
Silver (oz's)	4.7	4.72
Platinum (oz's)	431	436
AL (3 Months)	1981	1984
CU (3 Months)	2570	2575
Zinc (3 Months)	1368	1373
Lead (3 Months)	627	630
NI (3 Months)	7300	7330

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)				
Period	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF
1 Month	5.37	5.43	5.59	5.85
3 Months	5.37	5.43	5.59	5.85
6 Months	5.37	5.43	5.59	5.85
1 Year	5.37	5.43	5.59	5.85

Main Equity Indices				
Bourse	Index	Value	Change	High/Low
New York	DOW JONES	7782.04	70.57	7799.68 / 7712.37
New York	S&P 500	893.27	9.78	894.89 / 883.48
London	FT-SE 100	4783.1	25.7	4796 / 4771.9
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20528.35	-38.11	20615.5 / 20451.8
Paris	CAC 40	2808.52	48.25	2811.88 / 2781.84
Frankfurt	DAX	3744.44	36.45	3751.26 / 3740.91

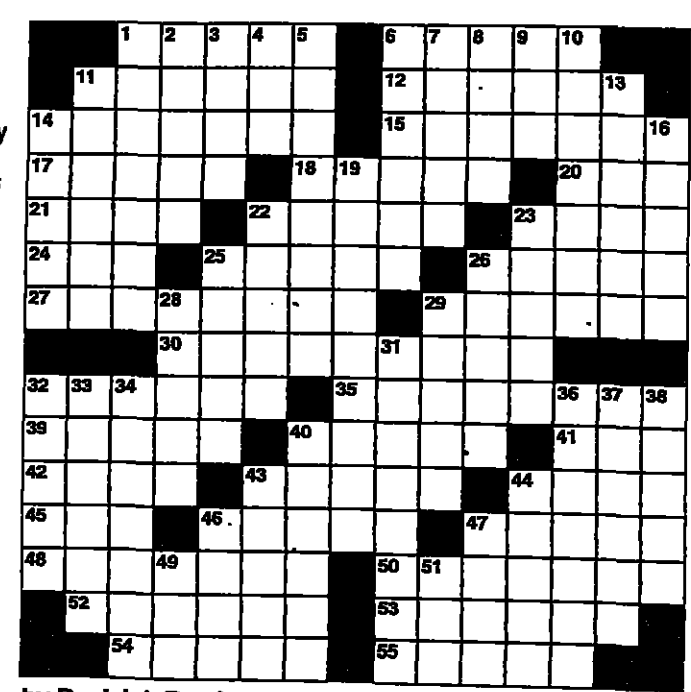
Energy		
Commodity	Unit	Price
Coffee (c/lbs)	211	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1814	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	330.5	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	150	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	23.13	Spot
Tea (kg/kg)	145	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1555	1.1613
DE Mark	0.4063	0.4083
CH Franc	0.49	0.492
FR Franc	0.1205	0.1211
JP Yen	0.6134	0.6168
NL Guilder	0.3613	0.3631
IT Lira	0.4144	0.4165

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

### THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Door parts
  - Six looks
  - Most certain
  - Landed property
  - Alike
  - Making amends
  - Gather
  - Utah city
  - Name in China
  - Baseball team
  - Building story
  - Japanese wrestling
  - Mahal
  - Claw
  - Men
  - Gave life to
  - Useless
  - Forever
  - Vacillated
  - Neapolitan, e.g.
  - "Iliad" author
  - Heron's kin
  - 41
  - Middle East chieftain
  - Moral character
  - Corridor
  - Decline
  - Data
  - Misrepresent
  - English colonizer
  - Kitchen appliance
  - Chelonian
  - Eye parts
  - Comforted
  - 55 Talked amorously



by Daniel J. Read

### Wednesday's Puzzle solved:

CHIN	LOPED	HEBE
AERO	AROSE	ALOT
FAIRY	TALES	PLAT
ELS	EELY	EMPIRE
BALE	BRAYED	
CHERRY	MOTET	
ROBIN	GONE	RAHS
APOD	HOVER	ALEC
GINA	ARID	TIARA
LARGE	SELDOM	
REVIVE	PARS	
RECEDE	SOWN	PLY
ALLI	SOUP	SALES
MEAL	TRIPE	DUNE
PETS	SATYR	OMAR

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- DOWN
- Robin Williams
  - Get up
  - Torne and Ott
  - Youth group: abbr.
  - Baby carriage
  - Misguide, in a way
  - Chemical compound
  - English college
  - Operated
  - Incentives
  - Monkey or ape
  - Glossy paint
  - Christmas visitor
  - Silly person
  - Parting term
  - Destined
  - Certain butterfly
  - Spud
  - Swindle
  - Psychiatrist
  - Adolf
  - Runs away
  - Type of puzzle
  - Diaphanous
  - Marsupial
  - Ethel Waters song
  - Praised highly
  - Friendly nations
  - Certain runner
  - Engraved
  - Bald bird
  - Author
  - Hermann
  - Adjusts
  - Scott of "Happy Days"
  - Notable time
  - Spanish gold

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson,  
Astrologer, Carroll  
Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Plan your day's activities early today, then carry through with your schedule despite any delays. Be sure to keep any promises to your mate which you have made so that there won't be any difficulties or disagreements.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) If you go out socially today, be sure not to criticize others who could provide you with helpful suggestions. A little bit of courtesy in your daily routines will pay off nicely if you are willing to use what is provided.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Be sure to keep appointments today, and you can accomplish a great deal towards developing a favorable plan of action. You should not do anything which could ruin your reputation which you have put in much effort to establish.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) If you go out to some new place with friends today, you should not take any unnecessary risks. Be very careful in motion of any kind while on the highway later this evening and thereby you won't get into any difficulties.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Get busy at keeping any promises you have made today, even if it is a bit inconvenient to do so. This is especially true where your mate is concerned, since you don't want to create any difficult situation at home.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) A fellow business associate may be acting erratically today, so follow your intuition and handle this person properly, so that you can eliminate any difficulties. You should not get into any disagreements which you can avoid.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You may be sceptical about some advice from a family friend today, however, you could lose much if you don't follow it. Pay more attention to your health so that you can continue to progress in your career activities.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Follow your intuition today, and apply your energy where you think you will benefit the most in the days ahead. Finish up any projects you started some time ago, thereby you can gain the recognition which you seek.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) The morning today begins very harmoniously at home, however, if you aren't on your guard, a very unfortunate disagreement could start there. Later this evening will be good for meeting with knowledgeable people.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) An unexpected message from a distant friend today could help you to handle a difficult situation. Avoid any depressing persons later this evening who could make your career activities not quite so beneficial.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Handle any important business matters early today, as you may be tied up with other matters in the days ahead. Attend to needed property repairs which you have neglected and which need to be accomplished.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You should avoid a scheming acquaintance at all costs today, thereby you won't make any mistakes. You should not become involved in a disagreement which is none of your business or there could be dire consequences.

**BIRTHSTONE of June:**  
Pearl — Moon Stone



## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Irbid power company  
better net profit in '96

THE IRBID District Electricity Company posted a JD566,690 net profit last year from having earned a total of JD28.5 million and spending JD23.5 million in operational costs. The net profit in 1995 amounted to JD540,100 derived from JD23.5 million of total earnings and JD21.97 million of operational costs.

Board Chairman Mohammad Said Arafah assured the shareholders that the company was doing well and improving continuously. He told the general assembly that the board of directors has taken many decisions that controlled spending, increased earnings and stopped hiring workers. He stressed that the emphasis would continue on boosting the performance of the technical and administrative cadres.

Abdul Raouf Al Sheikh, the company's general manager said that electricity in the concession area has reached 426 towns, villages and other populated areas in addition to 663 development projects. He indicated that electric power sold in 1996 amounted to 642.2 million KWH compared to 575.7 million KWH sold in 1995.

Mr. Sheikh said that the number of subscribers reached 160,969 by the end of last year. The number was 153,753 at the end of 1995. He further revealed that the capital spending for 1997 is estimated at about JD2 million.

At the end of the general assembly meeting, the shareholders approved the recommendation of the board of directors to distribute dividends at the rate of 11.5 per cent.

The company's total assets at the end of 1996 amounted to JD52.04 million, JD5.31 million above the total posted at the end of 1995 (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq).

Educational company  
decides not to distribute  
dividends, transfers JD2.7  
million to retained earnings

DESPITE HAVING recorded higher earnings and net profit last year, the general assembly of the Arab International Company for Investment and Education approved a recommendation from the board of directors not to distribute dividends and to transfer JD2.7 million of the net profit to retained earnings.

The company, which owns the Applied Sciences University, earned a total of JD15.60 million last year, 25.7 per cent higher than the total earnings in 1995. The net profit before tax amounted to JD5.49 million (JD4.55 million in 1995) but stood at JD3.99 million after tax compared to JD2.65 million posted at the end of 1995.

The company's fixed assets grew by 14.2 per cent reaching JD24.60 million at the end of 1996. With current assets amounting to JD3.10 million (JD2.40 million in 1995), the total assets reached JD27.7 million. According to the annual report, the company has JD4.3 million in investments spread over seven institutions among which is Ibn Al Haiham Hospital.

The company's capital stands at nearly JD10 million which, with other capital accounts, brings up the shareholders' total equity to JD19 million in 1996 (JD15.23 million in 1995) (Al Ra'i + Al Dustour + Al Aswaq).

## HSBC to manage first Jordanian corporate Eurobond

By Saleiman Khalidi  
Reuters

AMMAN — London-based HSBC Markets has been awarded the mandate to lead Jordan's first corporate \$100 million Eurobond issue by Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the investment bank said Tuesday.

"We will be arranging and underwriting the deal," said John Pascoe, chief executive officer of the Jordanian branch of British Bank of the Middle East, a member of the HSBC group.

HSBC Markets was picked from seven bidders shortlisted for the \$100 million five-year floating rate note (FRN) by Jordan Phosphate Mines Company with the guidance of Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the World Bank.

Jordan Phosphate Mines Company wants to tap international markets to partly finance an estimated \$250 million project to expand its major Shidiyeh mine.

According to banking sources, HSBC Markets was awarded the mandate based on the lowest price bid for

the issue, around 1.5 per cent above LIBOR. Final pricing is subject to an investor roadshow in July.

Bankers say the pricing set will now be viewed as a benchmark for future credit risk for upcoming Jordan issues such as a sovereign \$70 million issue expected by the year-end.

"It will be invariably viewed as benchmark for future upcoming sovereign and corporate issues, raising the country's overall profile," said Investment Manager Omar Masri.

Chris O'Malley, HSBC's Middle East, India and Africa director, declined to give the pricing terms but said it reflected equivalent emerging market risk such as Argentina, Lebanon and Mexico.

"It seems to us a fair price given the nature of the story and given equivalent credit," he said.

Local banks will play a significant role in the issue, underwriting as much as 50 per cent after Jordan's leading Arab Bank formed a syndicate with local banks to act

as a local placement agent and with the international bank.

"The aim of the local syndicate is to ensure a significant contribution by Jordanian banks in the first corporate bond to be issued," Arab Bank Regional Manager Mifteh Aqel said.

Mr. Aqel added that local banks' participation also reflected their interest in financing local projects from their significant foreign currency deposits and gaining expertise.

"The underwriting of the

bond issue and the fine pricing reflects the positive perception of the international market for Jordanian phosphate and Jordanian risk," Mr. Aqel said.

HSBC plans a roadshow in mid-July across Europe, the Gulf and North America to be followed by the floating of the issue in late July or early August.

"At the moment, priced at today's market, we think this deal sells well. There is a lot of interest and it's a good story," said Mr. O'Malley.

## Muhaisen sees Iraq-Syria trade hurting Jordan

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's revenues from Iraqi-bound trade passing through its Red Sea Port of Aqaba look set to suffer after Syria opened its borders to Iraq last week for the first time in 15 years, shippers said Monday.

The reopened border offers European exporters a more direct route to Iraq via Syria's Mediterranean ports, avoiding a long and costly diversion south through the Suez Canal to Aqaba.

"Sooner or later, market factors will prevail. Whichever

route is cheaper, they will choose it," said Sufian Muhaisen, head of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSAA).

Iraqi-bound cargo through Aqaba soared during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war when access to Iraq's Gulf port of Umm Qasr was hazardous. It then plummeted in 1990 when the United Nations imposed sanctions on Baghdad for its invasion of Kuwait.

In recent months Iraq has lessened its dependence on Jordan by reviving business

through Umm Qasr in the south and across its border with Turkey in the north.

The U.N. oil-for-food deal, allowing Baghdad to sell oil worth \$2 billion every six months in return for food and medicines, has brought little relief.

"Some months we have not received any (Iraq) cargo," Mr. Muhaisen said.

Last year, before oil-for-food imports began, Iraq imported 345,000 tonnes of sugar, rice and wheat via Aqaba. That was 50 per cent down from 1995

and just a fraction of the 6.1 million tonnes of Iraqi-bound cargo which Aqaba handled in 1989, the last year before sanctions were imposed.

So far this year, Aqaba has handled 20,000 tonnes of French wheat — cargoes which might in future go via Syria.

But Mr. Muhaisen said Syria still had to show it was a reliable transit point for transporting the Iraqi goods.

Jordan and Iraq have a long-established joint venture truck firm to transport the Iraqi ship-

ments and Aqaba port authorities had a proven track record, he said.

"It will depend on the handling at the (Syrian) port and transport arrangements to the border," Mr. Muhaisen added.

Diplomats said there were no signs Iraq was deliberately trying to punish Jordan by opening its border with Syria for the first time since April 1982.

Businessmen say Iraq has pledged to maintain Aqaba as a main gateway for Iraqi-bound goods and say it could absorb a major increase in traffic if sanctions on Baghdad were lifted.

Jordan has argued that its own trade with Iraq, including

a \$220 million annual trade protocol which is exempt from U.N. sanctions, was unlikely to be affected.

Jordanian drug firms have also won large orders for sales of medicine to Iraq under the oil-for-food resolution.

Jordan's exports to Iraq, still its main trading partner despite the seven-year sanctions, include pharmaceuticals, detergents and vegetable oils. Syria's main exports include wheat, food and textiles.

"They might export wheat and fresh vegetables," a Jordanian Trade Ministry official said. "But I don't think they would have more competitive industrial products than us."

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 17/06/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE		
269.000	213.000	ARAB BANK	11.6	1.59	5	240	60580	253.00	252.00	1.00	-
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8.7	0.00	64	73777	154909	2.06	2.11	0.05	-
3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	16.6	0.00	1	250	780	3.16	3.12	0.04	-
5.200	4.250	THE HOUSING BK.	14.7	3.94	16	20219	99678	4.93	4.93	0.00	-
3.250	2.440	JOR. KOWAT BANK	11.6	0.00	43	10369	33713	3.21	3.27	0.06	-
1.050	0.780	JOR. GULF BANK	6.3	7.87	14	16330	14550	1.80	1.89	0.09	-
3.870	3.450	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	17.8	0.00	1	3000	11100	3.70	3.70	0.00	-
4.050	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	18.1	3.24	10	1800	6556	3.66	3.70	0.04	-
1.820	1.110	UNION BANK JOR.	99.1	0.00	8	1050	4532	1.13	1.13	0.00	-
2.800	1.000	BEIT AL MAL (REITRA)	7.7	13.89	2	150	162	1.10	1.08	0.02	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 194.40 CHNG: -0.08 164 130205 386660											
4.550	4.100	JERUSALEM TRUST	10.9	5.00	2	138	552	4.10	4.00	1.00	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 113.84 CHNG: -0.27 2 138 552											
1.820	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	6.02	6	3250	5398	1.67	1.66	0.01	-
1.380	0.930	RAIL. PORTFOLIO	9.0	0.00	13	8000	7200	1.24	1.18	0.06	-
1.840	1.480	JORDAN INVT. TRAD.	26.7	0.00	4	2550	793	4.21	4.22	0.01	-
7.570	3.800	IND. DEVELOP.	19.4	4.87	8	4251	4.31	4.53	0.22	0.00	-
3.720	2.900	ARAB INVT. TRAD.	7.6	0.00	2	450	1314	2.95	2.92	0.03	-
1.220	0.960	ZAIFIA EDUCATION	9.0	0.00	6	5950	9746	1.99	1.97	0.02	-
2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	7.9	6.63	6	1300	2153	1.65	1.66	0.01	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.42 CHNG: -0.46 45 19450 26855											
4.450	3.060	JOR. CHEMIST FACT.	27.1	2.74	41	42480	170759	4.04	4.03	0.02	-
4.140	2.710	JOR. PROSPERITY WIRTS	11.1	2.51	2	200	794	4.00	3.99	0.01	-
7.050	4.950	ARAB POTASH CO	15.4	3.02	3	6000	39750	6.64	6.61	0.03	-
10.250	8.720	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	9.4	9.12	7	1148	11217	9.75	9.75	0.00	-
3.260	2.650	INDUSTRIAL COM. AG.	9.0	0.00	5	880	1743	1.99	1.98	0.01	-
7.150	6.420	JOR. WOODEN HILLS	10.5	3.42	3	1412	905	6.50	6.50	0.00	-
4.000	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MARK.	10.6	5.19	14	2859	10993	3.86	3.85	0.01	-
7.250	5.350	JOR. CHEMIST IND.	15.9	2.99	2	600	4030	6.70	6.70	0.00	-
2.000	1.390	JOR. TYPES PRINTING	17.0	5.84	1	1500	754	1.87	1.87	0.00	-
5.560	4.250	DAN ALMANA DV. INV.	13.2	4.60	2	500	2695	5.40	5.43	0.03	-
0.960	0.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.2	0.00	18	35900	17424	4.49	4.48	0.01	-
1.820	1.120	WAZIRIYAH	10.0	0.00	2	1000	754	1.87	1.87	0.00	-
1.330	0.610	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEN.	9.0	0.00	6	1150	724	0.63	0.63	0.00	-
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEN.	17.7	5.04	21	5000	8955	1.41	1.39	0.02	-
2.480	1.370	UNIV. HOUS. INDS.	17.2	34.50	12	3450	4760	3.38	3.37	0.01	-
1.520	1.120	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	15.2	8.85	1	300	339	1.12	1.13	0.01	-
1.600	1.300	RAIL. CHLORINE	14.0	4.70	1	1100	149	1.52	1.49	0.03	-
1.160	0.840	JOR. RAY CABLE CO.	15.9	0.00	7	1000	10005	1.87	1.87	0.00	-
2.090	1.510	EL - RAY RAYD WERN	53.5	0.00	2	550	832	1.51	1.52	0.01	-
1.330	1.080	INVT. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	6	6550	7518	1.15	1.14	0.01	-
1.320	0.850	INVT. CH. & VEG.	40.5	0.00	2	580	580	0.90	0.89	0.01	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 127.68 CHNG: -0.21 160 121556 293722											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 159.00 CHNG: -0.16 371 271349 707798											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 17/06/1997											
0.800	0.410	RAIL. EXP. REPT. MARK.	9.0	0.00	3	1500	883	0.56	0.59	0.03	-
1.640	0.350	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9.0	0.00	4	214	214	0.39	0.39	0.00	-
0.820	0.420	AL-SHARAH INV. ACTION 75%	0.0	0.00	34	332550	183777	0.82	0.79	0.03	-
0.720	0.410	JOR. TRADE PAC.	13.3	0.00	4	1500	740	0.50	0.50	0.00	-
0.840	0.450	UNION INV. 50%	9.0	0.00	3	6400	1152	0.68	0.68	0.00	-
0.740	0.370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9.0	0.00	7	3500	1820	0.52	0.52	0.00	-
0.950	0.730	AL-SHARAH INV. 75%	61.4	0.00	7	24000	18695	0.78	0.80	0.02	-
0.950	0.610	AL-SHARAH INV. 75%	61.4	0.00	8	16150	8347	1.64	1.67	0.03	-
0.700	0.550	RAIL. PHARM. 85%	8.0	0.00	3	763	112	0.58	0.58	0.00	-
0.600	0.390	INDS. ENG.	24.0	0.00	25	37463	14795	0.42	0.37	0.05	-
0.900	0.560	INDS. CHEMICAL	21.5	0.00	4	1650	1383	0.82	0.82	0.00	-
0.620	0.390	RAIL. POULTRY	9.0	0.00	1	100	67	0.68	0.67	0.01	-
1.000	0.810	IND. ALUMINIUM. 75%	8.0	0.00	10	10992	8851	0.83	0.83	0.00	-
0.870	0.530	IND. EAST COMPLEX	8.0	15.38	9	6450	4193	0.65	0.65	0.00	-
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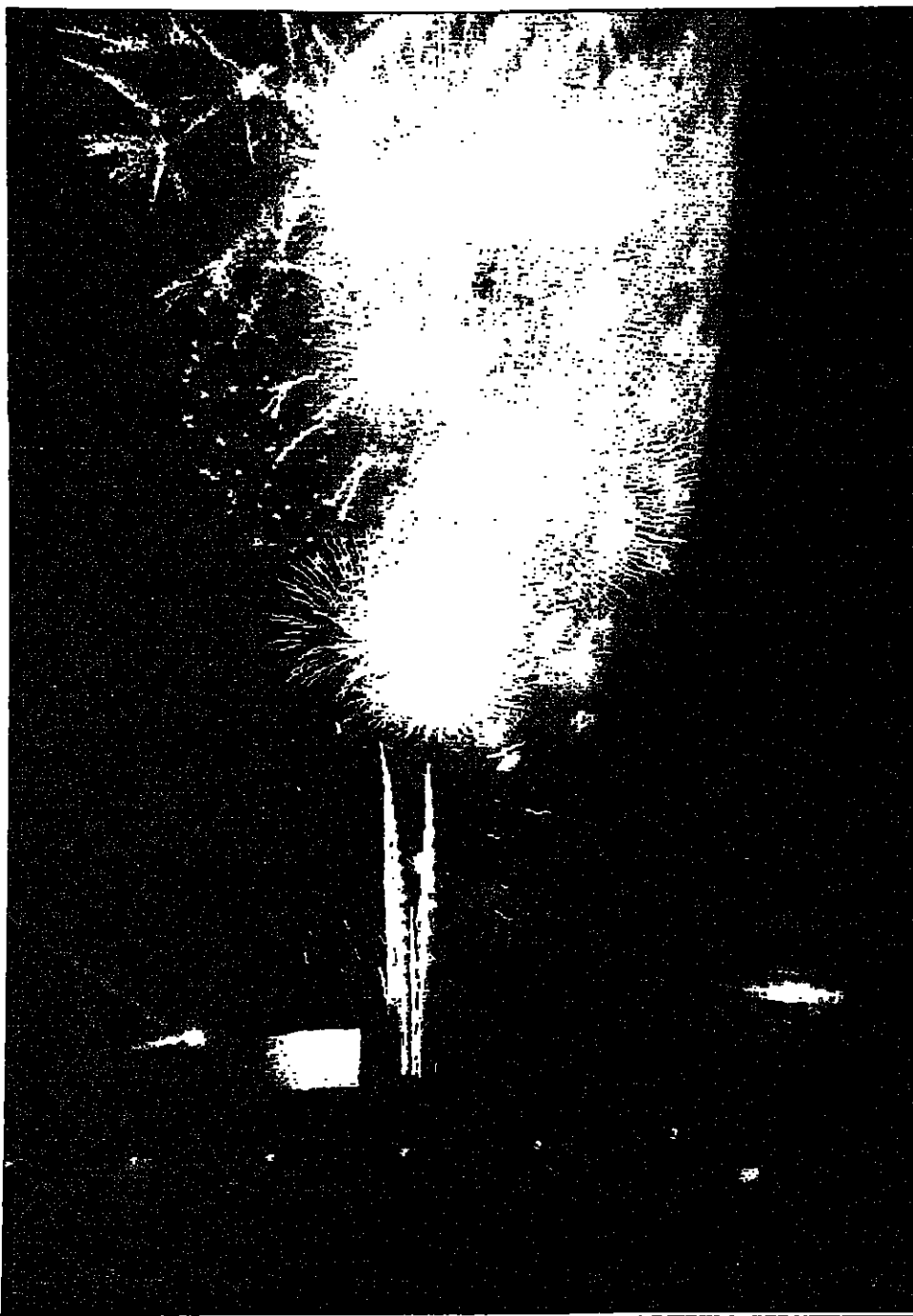
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Fireworks light up the Shah Alam Stadium during the opening of the IX World Youth Championship. Twenty-four nations will compete in this tournament, ranked as the second biggest and most important football tournament in FIFA's calendar after the World Cup (Reuters photo)

## Ghana beat Ireland in World Youth Cup

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Ghana made a winning start in the World Youth Football Championships with a 2-1 victory over Ireland in a Group C match at Alor Setar here on Tuesday.

Ghana, who led 1-0 at half-time through a 28th minute goal by Bashiru Gambo, were stunned when Trevor Molloy drew level seven minutes after the break.

Ghana rivals worked hard for the winner which came in the 67th minute when Mohamed-Kamil Mouktar beat Irish goalkeeper Derek O'Connor.

Ghana, runners-up to Brazil in the 1993 edition of the under-20 tournament in Australia, play China next on Thursday. Ireland take on the United States the same day.

Asian champions South Korea and South Africa,

the African runners-up, did themselves no favours by playing out a goalless draw in the first Group B match at Kuching.

Both teams now face tougher opponents in Brazil and France, who clash later on Tuesday.

The match, played on a wet pitch following overnight rain, began at a fast pace but both sides were let down by poor scoring.

The Koreans twice missed easy openings either side of the interval when captain Kim Do-

Kyun shot wide and Park Byung-Joo's kick was saved by South African goalkeeper Jason Robert.

Robert also thwarted Lee Kwan-Woo six minutes from the end to force a draw.

South Africa's best chance came in the 65th minute when Japie Motale's superb cross went begging.

Two top teams and four best third-place finishers from the six groups will qualify for the knock-out rounds. The final is on July 5.

### RESULTS

• Group A	Uruguay	3 Belgium	0
• Group B	Brazil	3 France	0
• Group C	South Africa	0 South Korea	0
• Group D	United States	1 China	0

## Leeds hand Brolin ultimatum

LEEDS (AFP) — The career of Leeds United maverick Tomas Brolin hung in the balance on Tuesday after he was given a 72-hour deadline to return to the Premiership club.

The latest twist in the chequered story of the Swedish striker follows the collapse of a two million pound (about \$3.3 million) move to his former club Parma.

The Serie A outfit have pulled out of a move to take the 27-year-old back to Italy following a lengthy loan spell, which means Brolin now has to report back to Leeds by Friday afternoon.

Brolin was described by club director and lawyer Peter McCormack as "very bad value" after playing just 24 games since a club record 4.5 million pound transfer from Parma in November 1995.

McCormack added: "The loan agreement which we entered into several months ago expires today. Parma notified us they don't want to buy him back, so accordingly the agreement comes to an end."

"Under the terms of the agreement, once it expires the player is obligated to return to Elland road within 72 hours."

"We need to see what kind of condition he is in. Pre-season training begins in a few weeks time and if we have been unable to do a deal then we will be asking the player to fulfil his contractual obligations."

Brolin has a year left on his contract, with McCormack admitting the clock is ticking towards the possibility of the Swede leaving on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling.

"We are very concerned about the situation. We want to recoup as much as we can. If no one is going to sign him then we want him to show his commitment to Leeds," McCormack said.

## U.S. to pursue 2007 Pan Am Games, not 2008 Olympics

COLORADO SPRINGS (AFP) — The U.S. Olympic Committee said Monday it would support an American city for the 2007 Pan American Games but would not seek a U.S. candidate to host the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

The announcement followed a special mail ballot taken of the committee's 107-member board of directors. The board will search for an American city to bid for the 2012 Olympics.

Eight cities — including New York, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Houston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Washington D.C. And Seattle — have submitted the \$100,000 fee and the

necessary documents to bid for the 2008 Olympics.

According to Mike Moran, USOC public relations director, half of those cities will let the fee stand with the USOC in pursuit of a 2012 bid, and half the cities have said they will withdraw from the process and will have their fees returned. Moran would not specify which cities were still involved in the process.

In addition to the four remaining cities, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and western New York State have expressed interest in being considered for the 2012 Olympics.

"We will begin process of picking an

American candidate city for the 2012 Games by the end of October," Moran said. "We will likely pick a city in the spring of the year 2000."

Four cities already vying for committee support for the 2007 Pan Am Games are Miami, Florida, Houston, Texas, Raleigh, North Carolina, and San Antonio, Texas.

The Pan Am Games are held the year before the Olympics and the United States has hosted the Games twice since their establishment 46 years ago — in Chicago in 1959 and Indianapolis in 1987.

## Chelsea's new 'Cantona' turned down Madrid giants

LONDON (AFP) — Uruguayan star Gustavo Poyet revealed on Tuesday that he turned down Spanish giants Real and Atletico Madrid in order to join Ruud Gullit's Chelsea.

Poyet, who has arrived at the London club on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling from Spanish side Real Zaragoza, is the man Chelsea believe will become the new Eric Cantona of English football.

The 6ft 1in (1.84m) attacking midfielder, one of five foreign signings made by Gullit since the end of the season, explained his reasons for joining the FA Cup Winners.

"It was complicated for me because I had good offers from both Atletico and Real Madrid, although that was dependent on Fabio Capello staying as manager," said Poyet.

"But I chose Chelsea, because I wanted to play in the Premier League. I like everything about it, the passion in English football and the way the game is played."

"Along with Liverpool, their style is most similar to the continentals, and you can see the influence of Ruud Gullit."

Poyet has won 30 caps for his country and last year scored 14 goals for Zaragoza. He was voted Spain's player of the year by One magazine and was also the top player for Uruguay in last year's Copa America.

He believes Chelsea will be a major force in Europe as well as at home, insisting: "I think next year Chelsea can be fighting for the Cup-Winners' Cup, although I also want to win the Premier League."

"This is a great club, and I think Diego Maradona was right when he said that Gullit and Gianfranco Zola were two of the best players in the world."

## Intracity rivalries highlight Interleague games

NEW YORK (R) — Eagerly anticipated intracity rivalries took centre stage on the Interleague schedule Monday as the Chicago White Sox hosted the Chicago Cubs and the New York Yankees in games that count.

At Comiskey Park, Ryne Sandberg had three hits and scored twice and Kevin Foster won for the fifth time in six decisions as the Cubs beat the White Sox 8-3 in the first meeting between the cross-town rivals in 91 years.

Brian McRae had three hits and drove in a pair of runs for the Cubs, who got 11 hits and seven runs against former Cub pitcher Jaime Navarro.

Both teams wore old-style uniforms to mark the historic game, with the White Sox wearing replicas of their 1917 uniforms and the Cubs sporting outfits circa 1911.

"It was a great day for Chicago sports," Cubs manager Jim Riggleman said on a day that the city also celebrated the Chicago Bulls fifth NBA title. "Having both teams from the city was great."

Foster (8-4) allowed just three runs and seven hits over six innings. Navarro (4-6) struck out six in 7 1/3 innings but allowed the Cubs to jump to a 6-0 lead by the third inning.

At Yankee Stadium, Dave Mlicki notched his first career shutout and complete game and Todd Hundley stole home in a three-run first inning as the Mets bested the Yankees 6-0 in the first contest between New York teams in 40 years.

The last time two New York clubs met in the regular season, the New York Giants beat the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1957. This marked the first "subway series" game at Yankee stadium since the Yankees faced Brooklyn in the 1956 World Series.

Mlicki allowed four hits through seven innings and finished with a nine-hitter. He had not pitched a shutout or complete game in 132 previous starts.

John Olerud had two hits and three RBI as the Mets scored three times in the first off Yankees ace Andy Pettitte (8-4), who was tagged for five runs and eight hits in seven innings.

In Toronto, Denny Neagle pitched a five-hitter for his second shutout in three starts and outdueled Roger Clemens as the Atlanta Braves blanked the Blue Jays 3-0.

The Braves gave Neagle all the support he needed with two runs in the second inning off Clemens (11-2) on Ryan Klesko's RBI double and Mark Lemke's RBI single.

Clemens failed to become the first 12-game winner in the majors with his second



Montreal Expos' F.P. Santangelo (L) slams into Baltimore Orioles catcher Chris Hoiles while trying to score from third base on an infield grounder by Darrin Fletcher in the eighth inning. Santangelo was thrown out, first baseman Rafael Palmeiro to Hoiles. The Expos won 6-4 (Reuters photo)

loss after an 11-game winning streak.

In Milwaukee, Jeremy Burnitz's home run with one out in the bottom of the ninth snapped a scoreless tie to lift the Brewers to a 1-0 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals in the first matchup between the teams since the 1982 World Series.

Milwaukee managed just three hits over eight innings against Alan Benes (6-6), but one was Burnitz's eighth homer.

Ben McDonald gave up just four hits over eight innings. Bob Wickman tossed a scoreless ninth for the win.

In Boston, Troy O'Leary was hit by a Ricky Bottalico fastball with the bases loaded in the 10th to force home the winning run as the Red Sox beat the Philadelphia Phillies 5-4.

O'Leary sent the game into extra innings with a two-run double in the bottom of the ninth that tied the game 4-4.

Bottalico (1-3) suffered his third blown save in 17 tries. John Wasdin (1-3) tossed a scoreless 10th for the win.

In Detroit, Kevin Brown followed up his no-hitter by pitching eight strong innings and Bobby Bonilla's run-scoring double snapped a sixth-inning tie to lift the Florida Marlins to a 7-3 win over the Tigers.

Brown (7-4) allowed three runs on six hits for the win. Detroit's Willie Blair (4-3) gave up five runs and eight hits.

Jeff Conine and Jim Eisenreich had two RBIs apiece for Florida.

In Kansas City, Jose Rosado pitched a six-hitter for his second complete game of the season and Jeff King had three hits, including a two-run double in a four-run seventh, to lift the Royals to a 5-2 victory over

the Houston Astros.

Johnny Damon added a two-run single in the seventh for Kansas City.

At Minnesota, Mark Smith and Kevin Polcovich hit two-run homers and Kevin Young added a two-run single as the Pittsburgh Pirates held off the Twins 8-6.

Jason Schmidt (2-4) allowed four runs and six hits in seven-plus innings for the win. Scott Aldred (2-10) took the loss. He lasted just four innings, becoming the first 10-game loser in the majors.

In Baltimore, Mike Lansing hit a two-run homer and rookie Ryan McGuire added a solo shot as the Montreal Expos notched their 10th straight

win, a 6-4 triumph over the Orioles.

McGuire has hit in all 11 games since he was recalled from the minors, going 17-for-38 (.447). Chris Hoiles and B.J. Surhoff homered for Baltimore.

In Cleveland, rookie Brett Tomko threw 7 1/3 scoreless innings and Brook Fordyce had two hits and two RBI to lead the Cincinnati Reds to a 4-1 victory over the Indians.

Tomko (3-1) allowed four singles and a double in winning his third straight start. In his last three outings, he has allowed just two earned runs and 13 hits over 20 1/3 innings. Bret Boone and Hal Morris also drove in runs for the Reds, who have won seven of their last 10 games.

### GOREN BRIDGE

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"After winning the jack of hearts, West leads a second heart which you ruff. You do not need to keep track of that trump. The opponents began the hand with five, and they still have all of those. Don't draw trumps just yet. First things first."

"You must ruff your five of diamonds while dummy retains some trumps. You cash the A K of diamonds and ruff a diamond with the five of spades. You need not worry about that trump either. The opponents' five spades are still intact."

"Now you are ready to draw trumps. Lead a spade to your ace as both opponents follow suit. Two down, three to go. When you continue with the king, East discards a diamond. You know that West has three trumps remaining, since only three of the opponents' five trumps have been accounted for."

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Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Just released in time for the holidays is Marty Bergen's new book "Points, Schmolts! Bergen's Winning Bridge Secrets" (Magnus Books, hard cover, 210 pp. Available from The Bridge World, 38 West 94th St., New York, NY 10024. \$19.95 plus \$3 shipping.)

Written with erudition and humor, it will reward anyone who is prepared to spend some time digesting the wealth of information it contains.

We are often asked by players of all strengths how, as declarer, we recommend that you count the trumps. There are several methods, but none as simple as the one re-

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Adel Imam, Shireen & Saeed Saleh ... in

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## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Bennett shines at U.S. ultraswim

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AFP) — Olympic 800-metre freestyle champion Brooke Bennett secured her role as the queen of U.S. swimming here at a weekend meet featuring several hopefuls for the 2000 Sydney Games. Bennett, 17, set a meet record in winning the 1,500m freestyle in 16 minutes, 22.43 seconds — well off Janet Evans' 1988 world and Olympic record of 15:52.10. Bennett also captured the 400m freestyle in 4:17.04 and the 800 freestyle in 8:35.37.

## Moya, Rios suffer on grass

LONDON (R) — Carlos Moya and Marcelo Rios did little to boost their fragile confidence on grass on Monday as both crashed out of the Nottingham Open in the first round. The top-seeded Moya from Spain, seeded 10th at Wimbledon which starts next week, did his best to fight back after a poor start but still lost 1-6 7-6 6-4 by Romanian Adrian Panu. Chilean Rios, another clay-court specialist with scant experience on grass, also failed to justify his status as the tournament's second seed by going down 6-4 6-2 to Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen.

## Mutti named new Napoli coach

NAPLES (R) — Bortolo Mutti, who helped Piacenza escape relegation from Serie A in Naples at the weekend, was named Napoli's new coach on Monday. The appointment was expected but the announcement was delayed by Piacenza having to play a relegation play-off against Cagliari in Naples. Piacenza won 3-1 to stay up. Napoli sacked Luigi Simoni, their coach at the start of the season who is moving to Inter, after their league form slumped despite having reached the Italian Cup final. Simoni was replaced by temporary stand-in Vincenzo Montefusco.

## Istanbul to stage Euro swimming

ROME (R) — The 1999 European Swimming Championships will be held in Istanbul, the European Swimming League (LEN) said on Monday. The LEN Bureau, which chose the venue for the two-yearly event at a meeting on Sunday, also decided to separate the water polo competitions from the other aquatic disciplines — swimming, diving, synchronised swimming and long-distance swimming — at future European championships. Florence and Prato in Italy were chosen to stage the men's and women's European water polo championships in 1999. The LEN said the separation of venues was designed to give more emphasis to each of the aquatic disciplines. Water polo will feature with the others at the next European Swimming Championships in Seville, Spain, in August.

## Arsenal to parade Overmars

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal were set to unveil Marc Overmars later on Tuesday after the Dutch winger completed his seven million pound (about \$11.5 million) move from Ajax. The Gunners called a photocall at Highbury stadium where they are expected to parade Overmars, as well as highly-rated striker Luis Boaorte who is set to join the London club from Sporting Lisbon in a 1.75 million pound deal. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger moved for 20-year-old Boaorte after seeing him star for the Portuguese under-21 team. The 24-year-old Overmars, who is expected to sign a five-year contract, has convinced Arsenal that he is now fully recovered from the knee ligament injury that kept him out of Euro 96 last summer. Overmars, believed to be seeking a one million pounds-a-year basic package, would become the second Dutch international at Highbury, joining striker Dennis Bergkamp.

## Corretja out of Wimbledon

BARCELONA (AFP) — Alex Corretja, ranked seventh on the ATP computer but unseeded for Wimbledon, has pulled out of next week's All England Club Championship. "I wouldn't be 100 per cent fit. I prefer to concentrate on getting ready for the U.S. Open, where I feel I have a better chance," said the clay-court specialist who has been unable to play for a fortnight with a pulled muscle.

## Kouba to join Kaiserslautern

PRAGUE (R) — Deportivo Coruna's Czech international goalkeeper Petr Kouba is to join German club Kaiserslautern on loan next season, his agent said on Tuesday. Kouba, who joined the Spanish club last July after impressing during Euro 96, has been unable to command a first team place because of the form of the acrobatic Jacques Song'o. He has appeared only when Song'o has been on international duty with Cameroon. "The president of the Spanish club (Deportivo) will not sell petr but he is prepared to allow him to play as a guest (for Kaiserslautern) next year," Kouba's agent Pavel Paska told the daily Pravo.

## Huge crowds turn up for Chicago Bulls' victory bash

CHICAGO (AFP) — An estimated 250,000 fans thronged a rain-soaked, lakefront park here Monday for a rambunctious celebration of the Chicago Bulls' fifth National Basketball Association (NBA) title.

Despite an early morning downpour and cloudy skies, Bulls supporters deserted offices and schools to attend their team's fifth victory bash in seven years.

"One more year, one more year," the fans chanted, reflecting concern that Bulls chairman Jerry Reinsdorf may break up one of the most dominant U.S. basketball dynasties.

"I have some very hard decisions to make," Reinsdorf said after the Bulls' title-clinching 90-86 victory over the Utah Jazz here Friday night.

"The only thing I know for sure is that when I make those decisions, they are going to be the decisions that are in the best interests of our fans."

Reinsdorf must decide whether to keep or let go coach Phil Jackson and star player Scottie Pippen. Bulls superstar Michael Jordan, whose one-year contract is expiring, has made it clear that he will stay on only if Jackson and Pippen are kept on.

Chicago's two leading dailies — Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times — put out special editions to mark the event, with the Sun Times hailing "the coronation of the Bulls of Jordan, Jackson and Pippen as one of basketball's greatest contingents."

Hundreds of Bulls fans had arrived hours before the rally despite a heavy downpour that turned the park into a soggy, muddy mess.

"They're the greatest and I wish all of them came back next year," said 69-year-old Miriam Howe, a die-hard Bulls fan as six planes flew past, leading trails of white smoke



Chicago Bulls Michael Jordan smiles and waves to the crowd during a victory rally in Chicago's Grant Park. The Bulls won the 1997 NBA Finals against the Utah Jazz. Nearly a quarter million basketball fans celebrated the Chicago Bulls fifth world championship at the rally (Reuters photo)

behind.

With four police helicopters circling overhead, members of the Bulls team burst onto the stage to deafening cheers, brandishing their NBA trophies.

The biggest ovation went to Jordan, who was greeted with chants of "MVP, MVP (Most Valuable Player)". Friday, Jordan was named MVP in the NBA finals for the fifth time.

"We're looking forward to bringing back number six," Pippen told the crowd while Jordan thanked the fans for their support and dedicated the title to the

## Al Wihdat will not play season's remaining events

Titleholders to miss Premier League starting today

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One of Jordan's major soccer poles, Al Wihdat, will boycott the upcoming 1997 Premier League and Jordan Cup contests as a result of Jordan's Soccer Federation's (JSF) decision to reallocate the revenues of soccer matches, club spokesman Khader Sowwan said Tuesday.

"The JSF's decision is unjust and it is not fair to deny us the revenue we deserve from our matches," Sowwan told the Jordan Times.

Following an emergency meeting of Al Wihdat's board of directors late Tuesday, Al Wihdat Chairman Bahjat Shihab reiterated the stand that his team would not play the rest of the season's competitions unless the JSF retracts its latest decision.

In a letter addressed to JSF President HRH Prince Abdullah, the club explained their stand and announced their decision not to play the Premier League matches starting today (Wednesday).

Al Wihdat's reaction followed the JSF's executive board meeting Monday which decided that 28 per cent of the total revenue of the match will go to the clubs contesting the match, 35 per cent will be split between the remaining eight clubs in Premier League, 32 per cent will go to the JSF while the remaining 5 per cent will be given to first and second division clubs.

The old formula gave the two clubs playing the soccer game 17.5 per cent each of the total revenue of the match.

"Despite our reservations against the old system, which was unjust to our club, we had accepted it. But the new formula is totally unfair and we cannot accept it. It is not acceptable by all standards," stressed Sowwan.

He told the Jordan Times that according to the JSF's figures, 90 per cent of the annual revenues from ticket sales come from the matches that group Al Wihdat.

"It is not fair to grant 35 per cent of the

total revenues to those clubs that are not taking part in the match. How could they (the JSF) equate between Al Wihdat matches that bring them a minimum of JD17,000 with those played by Al Qadisiyeh which at most earn them JD 7," Sowwan explained referring to the Premier League club which took last place in the past season.

He said that Al Wihdat bears a lot of expenses such as a monthly JD1,000 salary for their coach, in addition to expenses for representing the country in events abroad "which can only be met through getting our fair share from the JSF's four major contests."

Sowwan said that during the JSF's meeting, Al Wihdat's chairman rejected the decision and expressed the club's reservation on the new regulations.

"The general trend at the club is to boycott national contests and tonight's decision only reflects this position," Sowwan added.

He reiterated his club's position that they will not play the final game of the Federation Shield because the match was not held on the scheduled day — May 26 — and that according to rules his club is the winner.

Al Wihdat were scheduled to play against arch-rival Al Faisali in the Shield final, but the latter demanded foreign referees to officiate the game — which Al Wihdat accepted. Later on, Al Faisali demanded that the general assembly of the JSF decide on the matter, leading to an indefinite postponement of the match. The general assembly is scheduled to hold its meeting June 19 to decide upon the matter.

According to the JSF's regulations, Al Wihdat should be declared winner by 3-0 result following Al Faisali's refusal to play the match.

"Our decision is final. We will not play the match because we consider ourselves winners of the match. We accepted their demand to bring foreign referees but the game was not played on time. We are therefore the winner," he said.

## Sampras gets another Swede in Wimbledon's 1st round

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Pete Sampras, whose last two defeats have been by Swedish players, will face another Swede in the opening round of Wimbledon next week.

The top-seeded Sampras, winner of three straight titles from 1993-95, drew Mikael Tillstrom as his first-round opponent in Tuesday's draw at the All England Club.

Tillstrom reached the third round at Wimbledon last year and is currently ranked No. 54. On paper at least, he should not pose too much of a threat to the world's top-ranked player.

But Sampras has been below par lately, losing in the third round at the French Open to Magnus Norman and falling to Jonas Bjorkman in the quarterfinals of last week's Queen's Club tournament.

If Sampras gets past Tillstrom, he should have a relatively easy path through the next rounds — until a possible quarterfinal showdown against fellow three-time champion Boris Becker. The German is seeded No. 8 this year.

Second-seeded Goran Ivanisevic, No. 3 Yevgeny



World No. 1 Pete Sampras applies tape to his racket

Kafelnikov and defending champion and No. 4 Richard Krajicek drew little-known opponents for the first round.

Ivanisevic will face Romania's Dinu Pescariu, Kafelnikov was paired against Spain's Juan Antonio Marin and Krajicek will play Germany's Marcello Craca.

The theoretical quarterfinal matchups are: Sampras

vs. Becker and Kafelnikov vs. No. 5 Michael Chang in the top half, with Krajicek vs. No. 6 Thomas Muster and Ivanisevic vs. No. 7 Mark Philippoussis in the bottom half.

The draw threw up several intriguing first-round matches. The pick of the bunch is the pairing of Philippoussis and Britain's Greg Rusedski, two of the biggest servers in the game.

Philippoussis won the Queen's event, beating Ivanisevic in the final, and has emerged as one of the Wimbledon favourites. Rusedski got to the semifinals at Queen's and has a game perfectly suited for grass.

Also meeting in the first round are 1991 champion Michael Stich and 1993 finalist Jim Courier. Both are unseeded this year.

Chang could have trouble in his opening match against Australia's Todd Woodbridge.

And 1992 champion Andre Agassi, who has played sparingly all year and has dropped to No. 29 in the rankings, will open against

Spain's Carlos Moya. Moya, the No. 9 seed, was runner-up at the Australian Open but has played poorly in recent months.

Gustavo Kuerten, the surprise French Open champion, will face an immediate test against big-serving American Justin Gimelstob, with Stich or Courier looming in the second round.

The highlight of the women's first-round draw is the match between 16-year-old Russian Anna Kournikova and American Chanda Rubin.

Top-seeded Martina Hingis, who at 16 could become the youngest Wimbledon champion of the century, drew a qualifier as her first-round opponent.

Second-seeded Monica Seles will face Australian doubles specialist Rachel McQuillan. No. 3 Jana Novotna will play Germany's Wiltrud Probst and No. 4 Iva Majoli will go against Argentina's Mariana Diaz Oliva.

The theoretical women's quarterfinal matchups are Hingis vs. No. 5 Lindsay Davenport and Majoli vs.

No. 7 Anke Huber in the top half, and Novotna vs. No. 6 Amanda Coetzer and Seles vs. No. 8 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the lower half.

In the semifinals, Hingis is projected to face Majoli, the Croatian who upset her in

the final of the French Open. Venus Williams, the 17-year-old American making her first appearance at Wimbledon, drew little-known Polish player Magdalena Grzybowska but could face Coetzer in the third round.



## Summer's In The Air

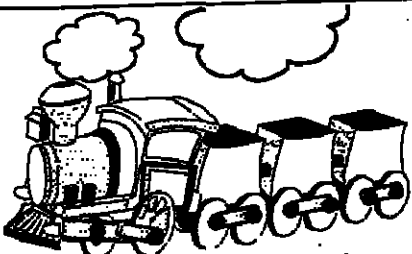
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**EUROPEAN PREMIERS RIDE ON PERSONAL ENERGY:** British Prime Minister Tony Blair (right) leads the pack followed by his Spanish counterpart Jose Maria Aznar (left) as the EU leaders enjoy a short bike ride in Amsterdam, Monday. The EU has reached an agreement on an employment chapter which will be incorporated into a new treaty due to be finalised here shortly (AFP photo)

## Cohen visits UAE after warning of Iran's new missile capability

ABU DHABI (AFP) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen held talks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Tuesday after revealing that Iran has for the first time successfully tested an air-to-ship cruise missile.

Mr. Cohen was to meet the president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa Ben Zayed Al Nahyan, and armed forces chief, Sheikh Mohammad Ben Zayed Al Nahyan.

A planned meeting with U.S. troops and visit to Dubai were called off, without an immediate explanation.

The UAE is the main port of call for U.S. warships in the Gulf, with some 800 calls a year, but a defence treaty negotiated in 1994 has yet to be signed amid differences over jurisdiction when U.S. sailors are on shore leave.

The issue of jurisdiction resurfaced this month with an incident involving a

drunken U.S. sailor and the shore leave of U.S. navy personnel in the UAE has since been restricted, according to naval sources.

A similar incident two years ago led to a sharp reduction in the number of ship calls. On a flight to Abu Dhabi from Manama, the previous stop of Mr. Cohen's Gulf tour, a senior U.S. military officer said Iran tested the Chinese-made C-801K missile on June 3 and 6 from an old American F-4 aircraft.

"Iran's words and actions suggest that it seeks to be able to intimidate its neighbours and to interrupt commerce in the Gulf," Mr. Cohen told a press conference the same day in Manama. Mr. Cohen said he discussed the tests with U.S. naval commanders during his visit to Bahrain.

"I am satisfied that the United States has the capability to defeat any capability that the Iranians may seek to launch against us," he said.

The secretary's comments were the toughest yet of his Gulf tour, which started in Saudi Arabia on Saturday and also took him to Kuwait, to reaffirm the U.S. policy of "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran.

But he said "the United States is not headed toward a clash with Iran unless Iran were to precipitate such action."

The military officer who briefed reporters travelling with the secretary portrayed the air-launched cruise missile test as a significant advance in Iran's missile capability.

"In terms of capabilities, it is a slow, steady march towards a war-time capability" for Iran, the officer said.

The UAE, which is in dispute with Iran over three strategic islands in the southern Gulf, is negotiating with the United States, Britain and France for the purchase of up to 80 warplanes in a deal worth around \$6 billion.

## JPA disunity may have caused it leadership role

By Amy Henderson  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The failure last Friday of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) to convene an extraordinary session for a discussion of new amendments to the Press and Publications Law may not be the end of the tussle over the law, but it may have signalled the end of the association's role as the leader of the movement contesting the law.

Equally significantly, the row over the law exposed a long-standing, deep chasm in the ranks of the JPA — itself a controversial body — which has become manifest in the association's inability to regulate its own profession, the drafting of the press law by the government without prior consultation with the JPA and council's disjointed efforts to have the law repealed, the association's disenchanted members say.

The final result, some members contend, was that the government felt comfortable enough to step over the association's role, and the association that should have been to be first in line in defence of freedom of press and expression was the first to retreat from the most serious threat to press freedoms since the introduction of the 1993 Press and Publications Law.

Sources within the JPA contribute the association's shortcomings to its strange amalgamation of members within the board and the general assembly, which has led to unusual political alliances, and a disinterested, inactive general assembly. The former, they say, wrought the latter.

"The only connection most have to the association is through the elections," says Caroline Faraj from Al Ra'i. "We, as members of the association, write about the rights of the people, but we don't follow this issue with ourselves, within our own association. I do strongly feel that the differences inside the association played a role in allowing the law."

The 450-member entity is comprised of staff from all three Arabic daily newspapers (two of which are partly government-owned), most weekly newspapers (all of which are entirely privately-owned), the government-owned Jordan News Agency (Petra) and newspaper owners.

All are represented on the nine member board, as required by JPA bylaws: three representing private sector papers, three representing Petra and three representing newspaper owners and one president, currently from the newspaper owners.

An editor of a prominent weekly, who did not want to be named, said the introduction of the new law showed the sharp divisions in the JPA. The two main parties are the "injured" and the "untouched," he said.

"Most of the injured are from the weeklies," he said. "They feel the law targeted them. The second party has taken things more lightly. Daily writers' reporting tends to be more conservative. The government did not have those in mind when the law was written."

The owners, he said, have an interest in "going with the flow." Thus, he continued, there have been differences in the approach to dealing with the law from within the JPA, exemplified in an initial decision of the JPA council to submit their resignations in protest, while JPA president Seif Sherif — who was largely regarded as the "government's candidate" in last year's JPA general elections — chose to remain in his position.

Mr. Sherif has maintained that he remained as president in order to lead "negotiations with the government" to have the law rescinded or, at the very least softened. Council members withdrew their resignations two days after their submission, saying they

(Continued on page 7)

## Police investigate alleged corruption by Netanyahu chief of staff

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli police have opened an investigation into suspected embezzlement by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's chief of staff, Avigdor Lieberman, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Mr. Lieberman, considered Mr. Netanyahu's closest confidant, is suspected of skimming \$24,000 from the budget of an association he used to head, said police spokeswoman Linda Mennuchin.

She provided no further details other than to say that police would begin questioning witnesses in the affair in coming days.

Mr. Lieberman already faces police investigation over an alleged influence-peddling scandal surrounding the short-lived appointment in January of a Netanyahu crony as attorney general.

Israel's supreme court Sunday upheld a state attorney's decision not to indict Mr. Netanyahu or Justice Minister Tsahi Hanegbi over the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney general.

But the prosecutors said further investigation was needed into Mr. Lieberman's role in the appointment.

Police recommended that all three officials be indicted for fraud and breach of trust, alleging they appointed Mr. Bar-On as part of a deal which would have led to court proceedings being dropped against a key politician in the governing coalition.

Mr. Lieberman's name has also surfaced recently in connection with a police probe into the activities of a presumed chief of the Russian underworld in Israel, Gregory Lerner.

Lerner was arrested last month on suspicion of bank fraud and murder and police say they believe he donated large amounts of money to Israeli political parties prior to May 1996 elections in a bid to buy influence.

Mr. Lieberman, like Lerner a recent immigrant from Russia, is expected to be questioned by police as part of that investigation, according to Israeli press reports.

## Military role, voting weight row delays new EU treaty

AMSTERDAM (AFP) — Divisions over the balance of power between big and small states in the European Union's (EU) decision-making and plans to give the bloc a military role were holding up an accord on a new EU treaty here Tuesday.

EU leaders were set to continue work late into the night in a bid to wrap up a package acceptable to all 15 member states.

"Quite frankly, I don't have the slightest idea if we will finish today or tomorrow," acknowledged Michiel Patijn, the Dutch European Affairs Minister who was at the centre of attempts to broker a compromise.

Under proposals tabled by the EU's Dutch presidency, the five biggest states — Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain — would have their share of the votes in the council of ministers increased to bring them more in line with the size of their population.

Under the present system, although they have more votes than smaller states, their votes per head of population are considerably smaller. Germany, for example, has 10 votes for 80 million people while tiny Luxembourg has two for a population of 400,000.

The smaller states argue that their disproportionate influence is vital to the overall balance of the union and are unwilling to see their voting strength reduced without a guarantee that they will retain the right to

appoint a member of the European Commission.

Under the Dutch proposals, the voting reform would kick in when the EU takes in its first new members from eastern Europe, expected to be some time after 2002. At the same time the big five states would lose their second commissioner in Brussels.

Britain, Denmark and the four neutral EU states (Austria, Finland, Ireland and Sweden) were holding out against proposals that would commit the EU to developing into a defence grouping through an eventual merger with the Western European Union (WEU), a 10-nation defence club.

A compromise text proposed closer EU-WEU relations which "might in time" lead to fusion of the two organisations. But the document was still deemed to go too far for Britain, which argues that blurring the lines between the EU and WEU could undermine NATO.

There are also fears that giving the union a defence identity would also complicate the bloc's plans to enlarge into eastern Europe.

In particular, Russia would be likely to oppose EU membership for the Baltic republics if it involved bringing them under the Western security umbrella.

Despite the deadlock over the future relationship, there was consensus on giving the EU new powers to ask the WEU to carry out peace-keeping, humanitarian and

crisis-management tasks on its behalf.

Breakthroughs were also made in a number of other key areas: foreign policy; a new streamlined decision-making process which curtails countries' ability to block decisions. General strategy will still require consensus but the implementation of it will be decided by majority voting.

There was also agreement that a senior official should be charged with coordinating the policy, not a high-profile political figure, as France had demanded.

Open borders: continental EU countries will lift border controls between them and phase in common immigration and asylum policies by 2004. Decision-making in these areas will require unanimity for at least five years.

The right of EU citizens to seek asylum in another EU state will be restricted.

Employment: a new job chapter in the treaty commits EU governments to greater coordination of their strategies for employment and allows for small-scale job creation scheme to be funded from the EU's budget.

The new treaty will also include a series of other important provisions, including increased access for citizens to EU documents, a new clause allowing member states to be suspended if they breach democratic or human rights, and a requirement to "pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals."

## German deputy calls to improve ties with Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — A German parliamentarian who visited Iran this weekend called for improved relations between the two countries, which are in the midst of a diplomatic crisis, a newspaper said Tuesday.

Juergen Moelleman, a former German economy minister, said in an interview with the English-language newspaper Iran Daily before his departure Monday that Iran "is very important to us because of its role in the Persian Gulf."

"Our historic ties can not be swept aside by a minor crisis," he said, referring to the row over a German court verdict on April 10 implicating Tehran in the 1992 murder of four Kurd opposition leaders in Berlin.

In reaction to the ruling, the two countries recalled

their ambassadors and each expelled four diplomats.

Other EU countries also withdrew their top diplomats in solidarity with Bonn. They later decided to send them back but suspended their return in protest at Iran's refusal to readmit the German ambassador.

"We shouldn't harp on past misgivings, but to look ahead to the future," the MP said, calling for "good economic relations to reduce tension."

Mr. Moelleman expressed hope that relations would be improved under the new Iranian administration of moderate president-elect Mohammad Khatami, due to take office in August.

During his two-day stay, Mr. Moelleman held talks with Iranian officials at the

ministries of foreign affairs, oil and transport.

The Minister of Mines and Metals Hossein Mahluji, called on Germany Sunday to take the initiative to improve relations with the Islamic Republic.

"Iran is interested to have good relations with Germany and the rest of Europe. Bonn should take the initiative to repair the ties," he said in a meeting with Mr. Moelleman, the highest-ranking German politician to visit here since the April court ruling.

Mr. Moelleman, a member of the Liberal Democratic Party, one of the coalition partners supporting German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, is familiar with Middle Eastern affairs and had previously travelled to Iran in late January.

## Foreign relations group calls for more aggressive U.S. peace effort

WASHINGTON (AP) — A prestigious foreign policy group urged the United States Monday to abandon its incremental approach toward Mideast peace and launch a major new initiative aimed at a final settlement with a Palestinian state.

In a report, a task force commissioned by the Council on Foreign Relations concluded that "incremental 'confidence-building' measures no longer work and have now turned into a prescription for conflict."

"The time has now come for the parties to define a framework for final status issues (and) a Palestinian state, however, constrained in its sovereignty, is an essential component of such a framework," the panel said.

It said the State Department should undertake intensive diplomatic efforts, culminating in a Washington summit, to get the parties to agree on a new declaration of principles.

Among those principles: - Palestinians would be assured that the final status of the Palestinian territories will be statehood in Gaza and most of the West Bank.

— Israel would be assured

that the Palestinian state would be demilitarised and Israel would retain a veto power over the new state's ability to form military alliances.

— The agreement would hold to a minimum the relocation of Israeli populations now living in the territories.

— The complex issue of Jerusalem's sovereignty should be postponed, although such a delay should not imply that the final outcome can be anything less than an undivided city.

Since the 1993 Oslo peace accords, U.S. policy toward the Middle East has been to promote step-by-step progress between the Israeli government and the Palestinians with the hopes of building the mutual trust needed to tackle the more difficult final-status issues of borders, Jerusalem and refugees.

But disputes between the Palestinians and Israel's conservative government over Jewish housing construction in east Jerusalem have effectively brought talks to a halt and escalated recriminations between the two sides this year.

Members of the task force agree that the situation has deteriorated to a perilous point and that without strong and determined U.S. leadership to put the peace process back on track, it can easily lead to renewed conflict, with potentially devastating consequences not only for Arabs and Israelis but for important American interests in the area as well, wrote project coordinator Henry Siegman.

Mr. Siegman acknowledged that several members of the task force "dissent vigorously from some of the task force's main recommendations," but he said all but one member agreed that the incremental approach no longer works.

Members of the task force include Sen. Spencer Abraham, a Michigan Republican, Brent Scowcroft, former national security adviser to President Bush, former Time editor-in-chief, Henry Grunwald, Robert Lifton, a former President of the American Jewish Congress, and Kenneth Duberstein, former chief of staff to President Reagan.

The council is a non-partisan organisation that studies and comments on international affairs.

## C8LUMN

### Suicides claim more lives than war in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AFP) — Some 70,000 people have committed suicide in Sri Lanka since 1983 wreaking a heavier toll than the drawn-out Tamil separatist war, officials said Tuesday. More than 50,000 people are said to have died in the Tamil campaign from 1983 to 1996, but 70,000 people out of the population of 18.3 million had committed suicide in the same period. Sociologists have said most people committed suicide over trivial issues and that many victims were trying to inflict guilt on friends and relatives as well as hoping for a better life in the next birth. President Kumaratunga has said Sri Lanka's per capita alcohol consumption is probably the highest in the world and drunkenness drives many people to suicide.

### Woman strangles sister-in-law over eggs

QENA, Egypt (AFP) — An Egyptian woman strangled her sister-in-law after a simmering row over the ownership of some eggs boiled over, police said Tuesday. The women and their husbands shared the same house in Qena, 640 kilometres south of Cairo, where they also bred chickens, police said. Every day the husbands quarrelled over the ownership of the eggs, until one day this week an exasperated Bataa Ghanem Mohammad joined the fray, taking her sister-in-law by the neck and strangling her to death.

### Woman claims \$1.5 million damages for beard

NEW YORK (AFP) — A 73-year-old New York woman is taking pharmaceutical giant Pharmacia and Upjohn to court after getting more than she bargained for when she bought a lotion to restore her hair loss. Gloria Mosseson's hair grew back...and then some. She has taken the matter to the U.S. supreme court, where the newly-hirsute woman is claiming \$1.5 million in compensation for an embarrassing beard. In a deposition to the court, she reports "heavy, dark, substantial beard-like growth, starting at about eyebrow level and extending down to close to the chin area." The growth began in 1996, two months after she started using Rogaine, a product marketed to restore hair loss. It hasn't stopped since.

### Toddler wins \$136,000 raffle

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An Indian toddler has won a \$136,000 raffle at Abu Dhabi airport, newspapers in the United Arab Emirates reported Tuesday. "The winner, Sruthisairi Reji, was unavailable for comment as she is only one and a half years old," said Emirate News. But her father, who bought the ticket on her behalf, said it was "the wisest investment of her young career," although the \$136,000 prize at the Abu Dhabi duty-free was being shared with two other people.

### Sweden gives \$1m to S. Africa's truth commission

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Sweden Tuesday donated one million dollars to South Africa's truth and reconciliation commission, which is probing apartheid-era atrocities. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) said the money would be used to speed up amnesty applications by alleged perpetrators of human rights abuses, the SIDA news agency said. Sweden's total aid package to South Africa has been set at \$30 million this year, and is likely to be the same in 1998. SIDA said.